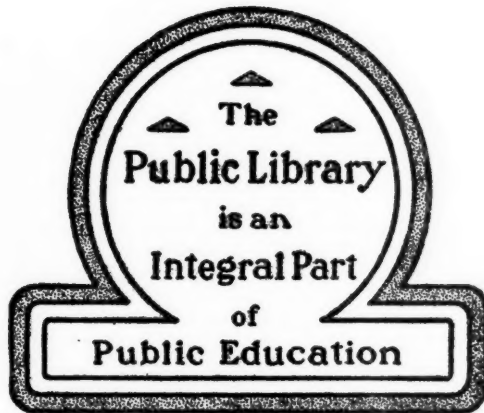


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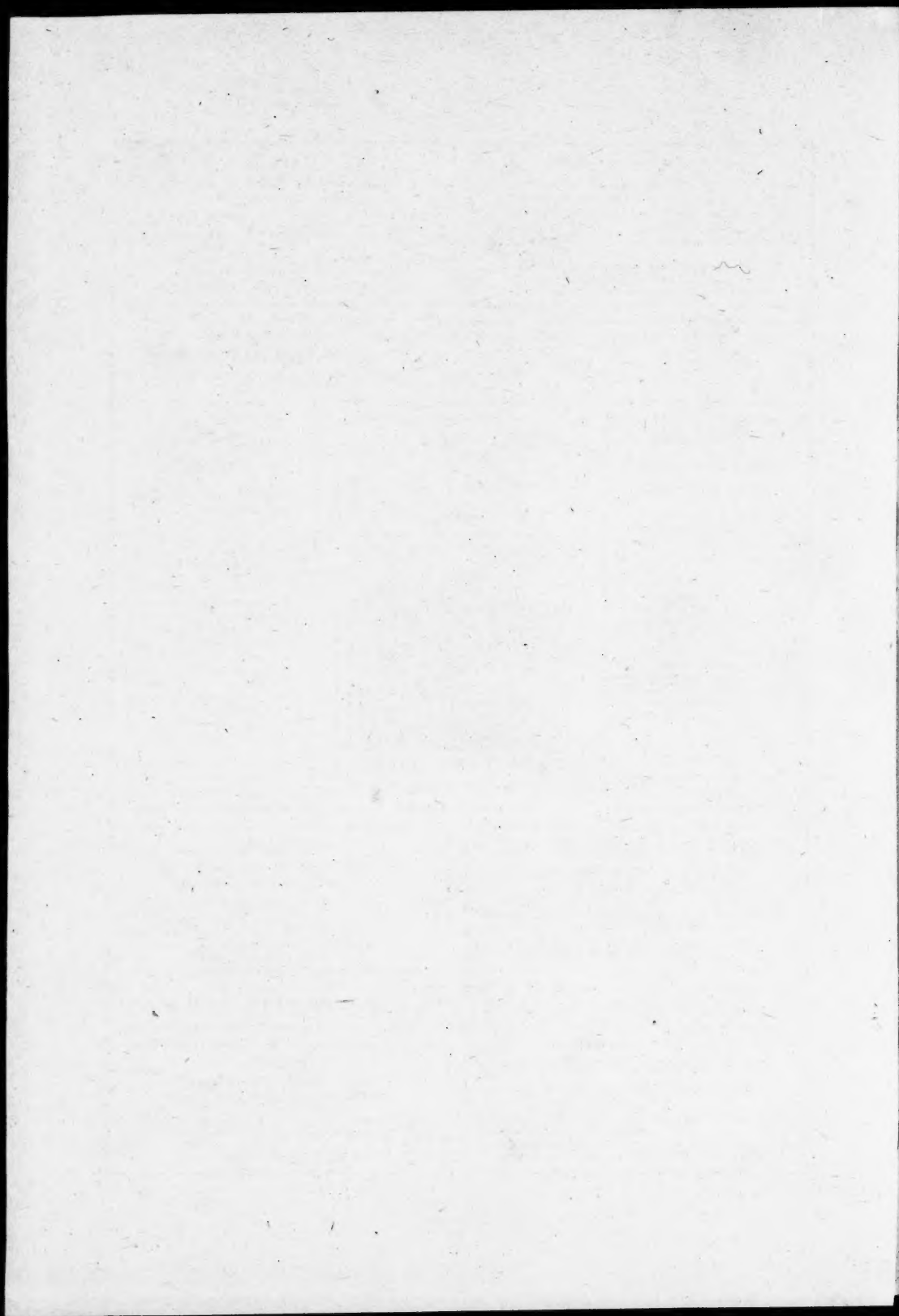
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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 15

April, 1910

No. 4

The Library and the Woman's Club*

Mrs Frank A. Pattison, president, New Jersey
federation of women's clubs

What is this thing we call the public library? This building that we view from the street, pass daily, point to with wholesome pride, place foremost in the summing up of our town advantages, and learn to look upon as a matter of course in our midst? What is it, and how should it impress us? A structure of noble form, solid, substantial, of exquisite fineness, spreading itself in a broad and generous way over all the land, complete, and yet carrying with it a sign of what is to be, never towered or pinnaced because of its relation to this world, to what has gone before. The history of the ages speaks from its every curve. It is the holder of the record of the great race memory, and the earthly vessel of its consciousness, upon which we must build and from which draw our inspiration and aspiration. Coming closer we find it ever ready to welcome us with the charm and spirit of home, coupled with the dignity of a town and nation. A community institution with which we should feel on intimate terms. A cheerful warmth of hospitality invites all to enter, and bespeaks the help it can give to each, a privilege and pleasure. The people's library made perfect and supported that the people may enjoy it, and that it may supply their every need, literary, social, political, philosophical, civic, etc. We have placed it in the horizon, we have placed it in the city's

house in our thought; let us now place it in the body of that city, in the working organism.

The public library may be called the intellectual headquarters, a storehouse of mental food, a veritable thought tank for the city. Looking upon the public then as the body, the library as the head, we find but a hard connection between these two, a character not complete in heart, hand, or soul. Your answer may be, organized charities, industries, and the church supply these, but we know there must be somewhat of everything in each, and as the individual must have all his parts developed in that harmony that makes for growth, so the city must do likewise if it is to get perfect results. We contend the public library in itself lacks somewhat the world of the hand, or that strong emphasis on the doing of things, in order to *know*; as various trades can be fairly well taught by correspondence, so we believe better results would obtain by the guiding of reading planned, and carried out in the libraries, reading that would develop the thought of the mechanic, the artisan, and the artist as fast as practice outside would permit, as well as a legitimate course in commercial thought. Here the library might do a tremendous good in disposing of that false idea that business is dependent upon a special set of laws independent of the moral and social code, and so in many ways we believe the hand and its possibilities might here have more consideration. To be sure, our libraries are not schools, but they are centers of public education, and they should do all in their power to

*Read before Atlantic City meeting, March 5, 1910.

educate the public, study its needs and its desires, and be the influence for good that was their motive in the beginning.

Life is much bigger than any one side of it. We are told that the door of the first library had over it the inscription: "Healing of the Soul." I would put over this door today: "The Growth of the Soul," and it can grow in richness and beauty only by a balance and harmony of all its parts. Reading, as one of the greatest forces of civilization, is not without the destructive dangers of any great power let loose. Is it not highly possible that we read too much? That while we are educating this thing we call Mind, our other important functions are degenerating from non-use? Is this, then, education? A balance of parts? It is so easy to have things done for you, to think as books think, to spend one's time in the stimulation not of want, but of luxury. The God of America is a money God, and we look to the library to put this graven image where it belongs. This is educating the people. That they may live together in mutual helpfulness, they must act together from the right motives. The intelligence of the community is the library's charge, not merely the intellect. On this distinction rests the whole scheme. To over-honor the intellect is to become dry, anemic, and cold; to widen the intelligence, on the contrary, is to add vitality, grace, and warmth, a whole-soul, full grown in its stage of perfection, conscious of but a beginning, but actively overcoming all danger of a self-satisfied mentality, than which there is nothing more deplorable. At this point we introduce the trained librarian.

There is no more influential, more unselfish, more useful member of the community than this same head of the intellectual center, a patient, responsive reference medium, a veritable *angel* at times. He develops the taste of the public for reading, and supplies it through life, placing the best books before his patrons, but what are the best books? Not primarily those that have been critically passed upon, but those that meet

the needs of the individual at his particular crises, those that he really wants. Want makes the will, and will makes the man, and we must want to grow. Here the librarian takes the office of mother and father, and must help his patrons to want the right things. This, I hear it said, demands the extraordinary man in office, but every office should demand an extraordinary man. We have them, we can produce them, why not demand them? Let us have extraordinary men and women all the way, from the stoker, that the most perfect fire is managed with the least waste, to the head librarian, that the most perfect citizens may be made with the least waste. It is a sane demand. The community needs a guide in developing its intelligence; the individual needs a guide. Why not appeal to the librarian in this, as we would to the physician for the body, or the priest for the soul? He should know by the signs of the face what the reader needs, as he should know by the signals of the city for what it is ready in each progressive stage. This lifts the library from the realm of the intellect in which it lives in danger, to that of life as a whole, and while its function is to minister at a particular point, it should embrace the universe; the profession of librarian thus becomes magnificent in its possibilities, vitalizing in its interest, and splendid in its daily routine, for unless every part is in touch with the whole, and that whole alive and constantly susceptible to a higher degree of expression, there is little satisfaction in existence.

You may notice we have said little about the heart side of the public libraries' influence. It is because, knowing my own sex, I would introduce in the subject at this point, the Woman's club, and while it should hold in no sense either a sentimental or an emotional place, looked at from a broader field, it is a great organization of feeling; a repressed feeling which has led to wanting to know, and then wanting to do, and will in its history we believe be one of the means of building together

the great social forces of the world into a coöperation that will mean the good of each, and the good of all. Feeling, which has so long been thrust aside and not understood in the light of reason, is at last making room for itself in the field of play, permeating every subject and leavening the lump of our civilization's marvels. We find it already a strong factor in making that thing we call Public Opinion, or the feeling of the day; a force more constantly strong than it ever was in this world, and helped to become so by this organized feeling of woman that bids fair in time to do away with worldly friction and discontent, a time when we will have peace because everybody wants it.

It is a significant fact of no small moment that while America was practically built around a library, the woman's club and the public library were born almost simultaneously. In fact, the first national organization of women for educational purposes antedates by one year the public library law, and as we know, they were both an American conception. As we follow the history of these two institutions, these two great forces for good, and while we realize that every sun of good must cast its shadow of harm, and certain evils be the result, we feel fairly safe in the growth of both, because of their high motives, their endeavor to interest and educate all sides of human nature, and their freedom from the complexities, which are introduced in a financial profit scheme. They have neither of them so far had any more money at their disposal than was necessary to hold the organization together. With an optimistic temperament, I can still believe that there are on both sides dangers ahead, and it must be one of our important duties to not only widely determine the close relationship between the woman's club and the public library, but to make that relationship on every point of contact, our constant thought. The library standing as it does for the education of the public,

supplementing our great system of public schools, should in this superior place be a power supreme over press, commerce, and government, although such power is ever dangerous in human hands unless governed by the wisest intelligence, self-control, and self-respect, and directed as a result of the sentiment of the majority of educators. It in this way becomes both a radical and a conservative force; radical in its rapid and far-sighted growth, conservative in the filling in of all sides on each working plane.

The Woman's club on the other hand has assumed such proportions already, both positively and indirectly, such a power in education, that we are told there is none upon which educators rely with more certainty of dependence. We are both the mothers of our sons and mothers of their sentiments. We call upon the understanding of man, the history of the past, and we develop the will of the now. Here then we see two vast fields of work, two great opportunities, which as soon as perceived by the masses, will be subject to the same subtle corruption that avails all complex organizations,—the desire to use each for personal profit, the jealousy of the strong, but immature, the tendencies to false interpretation, etc. It seems as though we could not begin too soon—not later than this moment—to define our relationship on the simplest basis, the plainest terms and the most sympathetic ground. Individual citizenship was the motive of each, and is the goal, a living, growing, changeable, original, and all important entity, varying in age from conception to the time of death, normally susceptible to the highest degree of development through, I believe, want and will. It should then be our purpose to encourage a higher degree of want, by release constantly from the lower, and a more perfect and efficient will by every suggestion at our command.

The spirit of conscious liberation brought about by the teachings of Christianity makes this wonderful work on a present-day basis, both possible and all important. In fact it is the embodiment of the two complete commandments, and verifies the truth of the real secret of success, and the only one that can bring both happiness and culture, the reward of a broad mind, a large heart, and the giving always of the best of ourselves. The power of the individual was never so great as it is now through organization, and the power of organization is in turn because of, and dependent upon the individual. It is fitting then that we not only have a definite, but a simple ideal, as a perpetual guide, one affected by neither class, nor prejudice, but giving to each a large, strong, hopeful, free attitude, within which the club spirit and the greatness of the written word—well selected—may bear fruit the like of which has never before been seen or known. And so from this background of values, let us take a place in the foreground of our picture, and discuss for a few moments the practical points of co-operation between these two modern and magnificent organizations. In the first place, may we not both do everything to extend the home idea and the home-feeling into both club and library. As the home is a fundamental, so it seems to me everything worth while should partake of its ideal nature. We can never get at the heart and the will of a man without a suggestion of home, and the city is the man, whether he be five years old, or 50; therefore, of all institutions, those that stand for citizen education should be the last to partake of the nature of a cold city supply shop. The woman's club instead of being antagonistic to the home, was builded and is maintained for home education and home advancement. The institution idea

makes the pauper, the institution idea makes the nihilist.

We in the United States are building a nation on a coöperative pedestal, a pedestal in dire danger of crumbling, unless supported by the truest feeling of coöperation, and a universal participation, and so I say we should work out this useful spirit of coöperation and conservation. Between the club and the library let there be a better understanding, brought about by constantly meeting and working together. We should in the first place disabuse the mind of the librarian and that of the public of the idea that the earnest work of a club is done at its regular meetings; fundamentally these are but a means of gathering in a more sympathetic and profitable communion than that afforded by society, and the program of such an occasion while we do not believe it should be wildly incoherent, absurdly trivial, or deadly dry, should be in turn whatever fits the need of the group, and will obtain the most broad and suggestive thought, rather than one planned for literary excellence, or cultural study. A club program that has value is not an academic proposition at all. It constructs itself from a sincere and thorough study of the individual members of the club. The real culture and the real profit and work in the woman's club is with the individual, and the special committee. Here, study may be encouraged *ad libitum*, and work set forth as a necessary result. The level of the entire club is the last thing to attempt to raise, even though it is the first to attack. The average woman comes to her club not because the club itself stands for an individuality in her mind, but because she is there to meet several personalities, to take her place in the plan, which for her must not be made too difficult, else there is trouble brewing at the start. She

should be allowed to move slowly, though surely, and above all freely, new contact with her fellows producing new desires, new ambitions, and new appreciations. These faculties in turn should be seized upon by the qualified librarian, and fed with the food which will prove proper for her digestion and healthy assimilation.

We should cease worrying over the imperfect programs of study and put our attention on supplying the best nourishment to produce healthy and sane desire. The young club of necessity must roam about from one object to another, touching lightly and childishly perhaps, each, in a youthful spirit of examination and navigation, not settled in any one field until in maturer years. Again, it is not the club that keeps its youthfulness, but the one that is dwarfed in its growth that needs special attention as to its food. The librarian, it seems to me, can be of inestimable value as a guide to both the work and the play of the individual and her club, in seeing her point of view, and helping her to see her best, not yours, not a librarian's and not anybody else's, but her own possibilities, always and forever. This co-operation, we believe, after studying each other, may be brought about not alone by libraries having specialists to meet club women, but by women's clubs having library committees whose interest it is to meet with these experts and coöperate, coordinate, correlate, and every other known co, in the work of both parties. These committees should be the best the club can produce, and large enough to avoid any one-man rule. This coöperation we further believe could be harmoniously managed to be of inestimable value through the bureau of information of the general federation. Here we find in charge a club expert of wide experience, and one coming in touch with the clubs of the United States. It would, I

believe, enrich her office and usefulness manifold to know even what the library is trying to do, and the libraries to know what she is trying to do in this club coöperation, suggestions from each side as to lists of books that have within them the power of inspiration, and while no book should be circulated that has not this power, there are those always that stand distinctive as essential to a subject, or epoch-making in their suggestiveness. These every club woman should find it easy to read for herself should she so desire, eventually taking the place of that mass of fiction that too often but feeds the emotions at the expense of the intelligence.

A list of books and magazine articles useful to club women should be published not only in the local club columns of the press, but in the official organ of the general and state federation. It should again be the special object of librarians to interest and influence the state departments of the federation by placing before them such matters as will tend to make of them the most effective possible organs of action. By so doing, we believe libraries and clubs all over the country would be helped. Our own chairman of art tells me she has a more complete library for her work in her own room than in the splendid Newark library. Each of the state departments represents the sum total of interests of all the club women of New Jersey, and is composed of representative women from many, or all of the clubs. Would it not be a splendid idea in view of the fact that I have heard it said—though I may not believe it—that these department meetings were sometimes not worth a long journey, and also as they are most of them held in the Newark library, for it to be the office of a special librarian to meet with these committees, giving a half-hour talk

on the latest and best ways and means gathered from the wisest writers of the day on the subject in hand, keeping thereby a live interest in the work of these departments, suggesting books and current articles for individual reading, and thereby in addition encourage promptness of attendance, and assurance of its being more than worth while to take a journey.

We need a club hour in the library, similar to the story hour for children, where all sorts of good things might germinate; with a list of the most authoritative and choice books and papers to read on subjects of the day, and information and discussion upon those in which the women can be of most use. Some specialist might deliver a course of lectures on, say, one's own city, or state, bringing out the comparative subjects of the day, and here I have a belief founded on our Civil Service motto, "The Best Shall Serve the State," that all geniuses and authorities on any subject whatsoever should give of themselves to the public in amount and degree according to their ability and conviction, especially those who have it not within them to send their best in the written word. Many times the personality and the act is more of an inspiration than any book could possibly be. The world needs these people. The world needs adjusters. It needs to come in sympathetic touch with the sources, the great sources of effort. The greatest of all subjects for study I believe is the study of our relationship to each other; in this is found our relationship to the Creator, and any man or woman who can throw genuine light thereon is a public benefactor. To know the great from the small, to be able to sift the chaff from the wheat is taking the time of most of us. We need expert advice, but we need above all to preserve and encourage on every hand originality in each.

I believe the public library and the woman's club together can do anything it wills. Let us then contract a marriage of purposes, and begin by increasing the efficiencies of ourselves, our children, or the local schools, and our press, the voice of the family. Let us take for our creed the guiding of want and will in ourselves, and through the refining of the natural quality of selfishness reach and enjoy to the utmost what is called the spirit of unselfishness.

American Education and President Eliot's Five-foot Library*

Hon. I. B. Richman, trustee, Musser public library, Muscatine, Ia.

Educationally (and hence intellectually) in America, we are technicians; we are top-heavy with specialization; we are a pyramid poised on its apex; we lack base.

It may be surprising to some of us to be told that in the United States today there is less breadth of intelligence than there was 50 or 75 years ago—less, for example, than when Daniel Webster decided that in order to make of himself a competent lawyer he must go through Dartmouth college.

What today is the educational situation in the United States? Briefly it is this: The boy of the grammar school would be a lawyer, doctor, electrician, civil engineer, or business man, with as little intermediate hindrance (that is to say, with as little intermediate education) as possible. He shuns the high school and the college.

Such, then, being the situation, what is the effect of it, first, upon the boy, and next upon the educational institution? The boy, after he has become a lawyer, doctor, electrician, civil engineer or business man—can he spell? Can he pronounce the words of the English language? Does he know American history? I need not answer.

Upon the educational institution, moreover, the effect of the situation is

*Read before Iowa library association, Cedar Rapids, October, 1909.

quite as striking as it is upon the boy. What is a modern American university? It is a place not where boys beginning to be young men are educated, but where they are taught trades. The main departments are moot-court rooms, clinical hospitals, electrical machine shops, and business quarters for instruction in bookkeeping and journalism. As for the school of liberal arts, it tends more and more to recede into the background. Sometimes it is scarcely to be found at all. You think I exaggerate. Let us see.

Said President Woodrow Wilson, a few months ago, in a Phi Beta Kappa address at Yale: "I have heard sounded * * * tonight a note of apology for the intellectual side of the university. You hear it at all universities. Learning is on the defensive, is actually on the defensive among college men." Said the *Hartford Courant*, a few weeks ago: "Here at Yale scholarship *per se* has no social attractions, is hardly known, and rarely discussed."

But this disregard for breadth of intelligence among us—this disregard for culture (for breadth of intelligence is culture), whither has it brought us? Educationally (and hence intellectually) in America, we are technicians; we are top-heavy with specialization; we are a pyramid poised on its apex; we lack base.

Now, among educators in the United States, who is it that by his "advanced" ideas, his system of "elective" studies, his coquetting with industrialistic ideals and demands, has most given countenance to the educational, and hence intellectual, situation that has been depicted? It is Dr Charles W. Eliot, lately president of Harvard university. Taking the cue from Dr Eliot and Harvard, state universities throughout the land have yielded to the demand for education made easy; for bachelorates while you wait. In other words, state universities have been willing to admit to the professional schools young men who possess no breadth of intelligence, no education. They have

adopted the idea of the boy in the grammar-school, that the more quickly one can get past school into business, the more quickly one will achieve success in life,—industrial success, I mean, success of which the climax is wealth.

But this that I have said, what has it to do with Dr Eliot's book-shelf, the theme upon which I am supposed to be addressing you? It has to do with it at least this: It emphasizes the undesirability of over-specialization, and the book-shelf in question over-specializes heavily on the pre-Shakespearian drama. Dr Eliot excludes from his shelf Shakespeare's plays, but he includes Jonson's "Volpone," Beaumont and Fletcher's "The maid's tragedy," Webster's "Duchess of Malfi," Middleton's "The changeling," and Marlowe's "Dr Faustus." Had Shakespeare been included, the pre-Shakespearians, it seems to me, might well have been excluded.

It is Dr Eliot's plea, that Shakespeare "is supposed to have been read by everybody." Fifty or 75 years ago, such a plea would have been valid. Today it is invalid. Few read Shakespeare now, except high school and seminary pupils to whom he is prescribed in "English"; and they read him not because they would, but because they must. Today in America it is difficult to get a hearing for Shakespeare, even on the stage. About the only plays of his that command audiences are "The merchant of Venice" and "Richard III." To see performed more than a paltry half-dozen Shakespearian plays, one must go to Germany.

On the same plea that Shakespeare is excluded by Dr Eliot from his shelf, the Bible also is excluded. "Everyone," says the late president of Harvard, "may be supposed to have read the Bible." But here again it must not be forgotten that what was true 50 or 75 years ago, is not true today. The readers of the Bible today are either adults who read it to take issue with it, or to defend it, on points of doctrine, or Sunday school children whose attitude toward it is much what

it is toward measles or whooping cough—something inevitable, but not to be courted.

A few of the titles listed by Dr Eliot seem to me to be distinctly bad. Dryden's translation of Virgil's "*Æneid*," for example, is so much Dryden as to be very little Virgil. "Becket," too, is a highly unrepresentative selection from Tennyson. And the "Blot in the 'scutcheon" from Browning (a single lovely lyric excepted) would appeal chiefly to Browning specialists.

On the other hand, many of the titles chosen are unexceptionable: Plato's "Apology," "Phaedo" and "Crito," "Letters of Cicero and Pliny," "Meditations of Marcus Aurelius," "Autobiography of St Augustine," "The Arabian nights," Dante's "Divine comedy," Chaucer's "Canterbury tales," Bacon's "Essays," Milton's poems, "Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin," Adam Smith's "Wealth of nations," Goethe's "Faust," Emerson's "Essays" and Darwin's "Origin of species."

Apropos of the top-heaviness, educationally, in America at the present time, let me name a few books (not on the Eliot shelf) which may confidently be put forward by the public librarian as correctives: The Bible (Moulton's edition), Homer's "Odyssey" (Palmer's translation), "The tragedies of Æschylus" and "The comedies of Aristophanes" (Ancient classics for general readers), the "Antigone" of Sophocles (Palmer's translation), the "Æneid" (Cranch's or William's translation), "Don Quixote," Shakespeare (Rolfe's edition), "Tristram Shandy," "Robinson Crusoe," Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality" (Rolfe's edition), Keats's "Odes" and "Eve of St Agnes," Coleridge's "Ancient mariner," Gibbon's "Decline and fall of the Roman empire" (Bury's edition), Macaulay's "England," Green's "Short history of the English people," Motley's "Dutch republic," Parkman's "France in America"—the whole series. "The Cambridge modern history," edited after Lord Acton, Matthew Arnold's

"Literature and dogma," Hawthorne's "Scarlet letter," Thackeray's "Vanity fair," George Eliot's "Adam Bede," Victor Hugo's "Les misérables," Tolstoy's "War and peace," Browning's "Clive" and "Herve Riel" (Rolfe's edition). Small libraries (and large ones, too) are advised to procure the Cambridge edition of the English poets. This edition comprises the complete works of each poet, with notes, etc.,—a single volume to an author. With it should be associated the Rolfe edition of selected poems.

Whenever one of our under-educated, over-specialized American lawyers, doctors, electricians, civil engineers, or business men can be induced by a public librarian to read seriously one or more of the books just mentioned, that librarian, by broadening the reader's mental base, will have performed, both for the reader and for the community, a valuable service.

The Work of a Periodical Department

Katharine B. Judson, head of periodical department, Public library, Seattle, Wash.

When the organization of the periodical department of the Seattle public library was undertaken, three years ago, the dearth of information on the subject in literature on library economy was something of a trial. Suggestions there were in plenty for very small libraries, but those of moderate or larger size did not fare nearly so well. For this reason it is hoped that some of the methods here described may help to solve the problems of others, even though, on account of comparative isolation by distance, the work in Seattle has had to be done independently and with reference only to local needs.

In our periodical reading room, on the top floor, seating one hundred, and in the newspaper reading room, on the ground floor, seating another hundred, we are reminded continually that the demands on libraries in the Pacific Northwest are unusual. For one thing,

the public use the library to an extraordinary extent. The population of the city is a little over 300,000; yet in 1908 over 400,000 readers used this department alone. Then, too, our population is very masculine. A young woman entered the periodical reading room one afternoon, looking around with an air of uncertainty. After a moment's hesitation, she came to my desk. "I'm so glad you're here," she chirped, "that makes *two* of us." I knew well enough what she meant. Those hundred chairs were occupied by men. The night attendant, a university student, has been asked sometimes by men whether it was proper for them to bring their wives in to read there. Feminization cannot be charged against the Seattle public library. The majority of the staff are women, of course, but it is partly necessary to make the women readers feel comfortable.

The greater number of these readers are newcomers to the city. Many are young men who have come West to win their fortunes; others have left their families in the East until they get a fresh start in a new country; still others are Alaskans who prefer to spend their winters in our mild climate. Alaska furnishes us with a goodly share of interest. Men who have "come out" for the first time in two or three years demand back files of everything until they catch up with the world's news. A woman from Dawson City, tall, gaunt, badly dressed, but crudely courteous,—a woman who looked as if she could easily fell a tree,—asked for women's magazines. I handed her several, the last being *Good House-keeping*. She looked askance at it. "No, no," she said, "I don't want that. I'm not domesticated."

The work of our Periodical department naturally divides itself into several phases: Current periodicals, back numbers, newspapers, and department orders and records.

The well-lighted periodical room contains, besides the hundred chairs mentioned, two 12-foot and five 10-foot

tables. In one corner is a rectangular charging desk, lined with broad shelves, and enclosing wall shelves which contain the current circulating magazines and part of the back numbers. Wall racks devised by the former librarian partially encircle the room and make easily accessible to readers our 425 magazines. These magazines are arranged in one alphabet, regardless of size or shape. The racks occupy no floor space and permit of the utmost elasticity in maintaining strict alphabetical order whether new magazines are inserted or old ones discontinued, or whether sizes and names change. The location of magazines is indicated by cardboard labels, sliding in grooves. These are printed with rubber type, in large letters. Back numbers of periodicals are filed upright on shelves behind the desk or laid flat on shelves in a small adjoining work-room. The files of bound periodicals are kept in the reference department and are not used in the periodical room.

Magazine covers are made in our own bindery, of imperial morocco cloth, to be fastened with Ballard clips. Green is used for those in the reading room racks and red for all circulating magazines. Titles are lettered in gold on the front covers, except those used for back numbers, which are blank.

Circulating magazines are issued on three, seven, and 14 days' time. Only "back numbers," that is, those prior to the last two issues, are allowed 14 days; these are also renewable. Moreover, of these back numbers we allow two periodicals, regardless of date or title, to be fastened into one cover and charged as one. Back numbers cannot circulate, however, unless current issues do. This not only saves confusion, as a matter of policy, but is usually a necessity. If current numbers do not circulate, there are not enough to circulate as back numbers. We subscribe for 82 copies of circulating magazines, covering 24 titles. This does not include, however, the art magazines which circulate from the art department.

Current circulating periodicals may be

issued on either the general or non-fiction card; back numbers are also issued on the teachers' special cards. Our generosity with back numbers is readily understood; we have plenty of them, there is less call for them, and we want to keep them in active service. The department has no time to bother with mere lumber. We do not limit any borrower on the number of periodicals he may draw out. Every effort is made, moreover, to give the teachers all the periodicals they can make use of. Ten, 12 or 14 back numbers are sometimes issued to one teacher, and, where it seems desirable, we strain a point in their behalf. Rules are simply to protect ourselves from abuse of privileges by careless borrowers, and we would rather lose a few magazines than have them accumulate unused.

The accumulation of back numbers was one of the first things which troubled us. In the crowded old building, little could be done with them except box and store them. Circulation of back numbers was very limited and necessarily was not encouraged on account of mechanical difficulties. So, upon moving into the new building, Christmas, 1906, we found ourselves with some 20,000 periodicals to sort out and dispose of. Later, through the acquisition of a Carnegie library in the suburb as a branch, we had some 8000 more to sort over.

Disposal of these was not difficult. The cheaper ones were turned over to another department to be sent to fire stations, police stations, factories, or wherever they could be used. Those entirely worthless were destroyed. Others, such as *Collier's*, odd copies of the *National Geographic Magazine*, *Birds and Nature*, and even the *Ladies' Home Journal*, were clipped by the Art department and the Children's department for bulletin pictures, circulating pictures, monologs, and so on. Nearly 100 v. needed to complete our bound sets were filled out and sent to the bindery. Periodicals not on the bindery list, but of possible use for binding later, were

set aside for future decision. There remained, then, of this mass of material, between 4000 and 5000 standard periodicals, all indexed in the *Readers' Guide*, all circulating, but covering only the period since the library fire, January, 1901. Our ingenuity was exercised to bring this material, limited in date and unused but useful, into actual service.

The value of such "a lot of old magazines" has been proved especially in our work with the schools. Debate work is popular in the high schools here. We learned of the subjects most in use and for each we made, on cards, a complete reading list, 1901 to date, of all material in our available periodicals. Each article was given a separate card, at the bottom of which we noted salient points, such as whether it covered the affirmative or negative, whether general or specific, whether or not authoritative, so that a demand for a circulating magazine on a given side of a debate or on a specific phase of the subject could be readily answered. This took time, of course, but in the end it saved time in preventing unnecessary duplication of work and in the speed with which we could supply what was wanted. Being thoroughly worked out, the record is permanent and needs only to be kept to date. Some 50 subjects have been worked up in this way, and typewritten lists of them sent to interested teachers, as well as posted on bulletin boards at the High school, in the Circulation department and our own department at the library. We are prepared for the students and they know it. Girls especially appreciate this opportunity to borrow the magazines, as our rainy winter days are short and darkness comes early.

We are still further prepared on this work by having taken from the shelves copies of periodicals covered by these reading lists, each one ticketed with subject and paging, such as "Bird preserves, p. 365," or "Immigration, oriental, p. 279." Material on each of these 50 subjects is kept on the broad

shelves under the charging desk. The shelves are also labeled. The ticketing of each magazine is done simply with a strip of flexible green cardboard, two by four inches, fastened on with paper clips to the cover and two or three advertising pages, nor are these slips often pulled off. Students seem to appreciate the advantage of being able to get, at a moment's notice, 20 or 30 articles, either for reference or circulation, on debate subjects, whether it be the government ownership of railroads, the city beautiful, or tariff revision, and they are courteous and careful. They also appreciate the advantage of taking two magazines on one card, since it gives them opposing points of view. Our ticketed files are kept as complete as possible by circulating the duplicates of those ticketed; if there are no duplicates, however, they may take the labeled copies.

This work, of course, is entirely in addition to that done in the Circulation and Reference departments and relieves the pressure in both of them. The Reference department cannot afford to give all of its time to school work. The Circulation department naturally finds itself embarrassed when asked for an extraordinary number of the very latest books on any one subject. Occasionally, too, on a peculiar subject, such as the history of the dime novel, or bird preserves, the periodicals contain more direct, definite information than books.

A "current topics" table, near the entrance to the room, is kept supplied with files of periodicals on any topic of current, popular interest. Alaska and the Pacific Northwest were two subjects covered during the exposition. These are also labeled with the green slips, giving subject and page. Many readers are attracted by this table,—many, I think, of a class that would hardly take the time or trouble to have the subject looked up for them.

A teacher in an outlying high school found our magazines of service in a course on book reviews and literary criticism. She selected some 30 num-

bers from our shelves which were sent to her nearest branch and circulated from there among her students. As the teachers become more alert to the possibilities of the use of periodicals in their work, we can extend this service indefinitely.

The head of the English department in our largest high school has quickly become interested in some new work with our periodicals which will be developed this fall. We suggested the use of magazine articles, by standard authors, in the 30 or 40 classes in English which are studying narration, description, exposition, criticism, and other forms of English composition. After being classified, typewritten lists will be posted on bulletin boards in the high school and in our periodical reading room. The effort, of course, is to put more life into the study of English. "An American artist in the Sahara desert," well written and finely illustrated in the *World's Work*, will arouse interest in the subject-matter and make more interesting an analysis of the English used. Articles on shipbuilding, flying machines and irrigation projects, well written and well illustrated, are bound to prove the value of good, clear English to the boy of a mechanical turn of mind—and such boys usually detest English composition. Late articles by Henry Van Dyke and Hamilton Mabie are worth as much between the paper covers of a magazine as between the board covers of a book. These magazines can be used either for reference in the library or for circulation; or, if it seems desirable, files can be sent to the High school library. They will simply be labeled "Narration, p. 265," or "Description, p. 17." The typewritten lists will show author, title of article, and name and date of magazine.

We never undertake, by the way, to strip our periodicals of advertising pages, or to do anything else to them. We use them exactly as they reach us. We find that for use in the department the advertising pages give them body enough to wear better and it protects

the reading matter without other covering. For circulation, of course, we use covers.

Our effort to systematize the school work has been of advantage to the branch libraries, since with this list of debate subjects branch assistants can prepare for the winter's debate work. To the branches we have supplied also over 200 v. of back numbers, to complete their bound sets.

For the sake of casual visitors, embarrassed by the number of unfamiliar periodicals around them and therefore unable to find anything they want, we compile each month a list of the more interesting articles in the popular magazines. This typewritten list, comprising 40 or more items, is posted on the bulletin board, labeled in letters an inch high, and serves its purpose well. A carbon copy is sent to the Y. M. C. A. and is posted by the educational director in their reading rooms, serving a like purpose there.

In the newspaper room, on the ground floor, we have over 200 newspapers. Those on racks, the large city papers, are so labeled that a stranger can tell instantly what we have and its exact location. This makes it easier, also for readers to replace papers correctly. On open shelves, in this same room, are arranged, by counties, about 100 Washington papers, and 15 Alaskan papers, arranged by towns. The publishers of Washington and Alaskan papers are especially generous to us. All of these local papers are free, even those listed at a price of from \$10 to \$20 a year. Twenty dollars per year for a small four-page daily, by the way, is a fair specimen of Alaskan prices. Back files of newspapers are kept in labeled cupboards in a small adjoining room, used also as a women's newspaper room.

Most librarians are very unsympathetic toward newspaper rooms, but in this city the room is of some importance. The local and Alaskan papers advertise sections of the Northwest little known and thus help themselves and intending settlers, while city dailies

give home news to many strangers. Our newspaper room has had as many as 1100 men in it in a single day, though we are practically free from the loafer class.

That the public appreciates the efforts of this department is proved in both the periodical and newspaper rooms, not only by an almost entire absence of complaint, but by many expressions of appreciation.

To this department falls also the work of ordering periodicals for the entire library system, each department, however, controlling its own selection. Circulating magazines and those for general reading we select, both as to the magazines to be subscribed for and the number of each, subject only to the approval of the librarian. Early in the fall a report is turned in to him giving estimates for all departments for the following year,—expenditure for the current year, new periodicals suggested by each department for the new year, with prices, recommendations concerning those to be discontinued, and total comparative expenditure for periodicals for the entire library system. After receiving his approval, the department is given full authority to order in the most economical way. The majority of American magazines are ordered through an agent selected every second or third year by competitive bids, but by ordering direct 30 periodicals and 30 newspapers, for 1909, \$100 was saved. Cost in time for the direct ordering was possibly \$3. Another \$100 was saved by publishing a union list of periodicals with the library of the University of Washington, by which we were enabled to discontinue expensive but little used periodicals which were accessible to the public in the University library. We make no attempt to order foreign periodicals direct. All foreign orders are sent to one London agent whose service has been exceptionally good.

All periodical bills are referred to this department and we are responsible for the correction of any mistakes made

and those of less frequency are checked on Library Bureau cards by date of receipt. This ends any argument from the public as to when a certain periodical should be in, and enables us to know more exactly when to send for missing numbers. Weeklies are checked on a special card of our own, by date of issue; dailies on the usual Library Bureau card.

Reference work on current topics is, of course, a matter of importance. It not only takes much time, but also, before the latest indexes are received, involves good memory work. It also requires an up-to-dateness of the highest type.

"What in the world does she do? Just sit there and count the people who come in?" was asked concerning me by a visiting reference librarian. Few understand, until they try it, the amount of work involved in handling periodicals. It was recently remarked by an efficient librarian that a well-managed periodical department involved work as important and more difficult than cataloging. I agree with this view, particularly as regards the difficulties. The work is detailed to an unusual degree. For this reason it is not easy to find satisfactory helpers. Unusual accuracy, a grasp of detail and a good memory, yet an ability to grasp also the broader outlines of the work, a thorough knowledge of current events, and the ability to do reference work, are essential. So, also, especially in the work with students, is a sympathetic interest with readers. On the other hand, these demands are balanced by exceptional opportunities for initiative and the development of executive ability, while the variety of the work, with its incessant interruptions, gives a training worth while.

With the increasing value of present-day magazines, owing to increased respect for them as a more effective means of reaching the general public even than books, and their increasing popularity, periodical work will undoubtedly receive in the future more recognition

than in the past. At present, there is no standard for a periodical department. The term may stand for a very high type of work or for a very low one. It is one of the latest developments of library work, but is surely becoming an important one.

An Invitation to American Librarians

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:—

We understand that a considerable number of American librarians intend to attend the International library congress at Brussels commencing on August 28. On behalf of the Council of the Library association, and also on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Exeter, we beg to extend a very hearty invitation to the American librarians to visit Exeter and to take part in our proceedings. With a view to this, the week commencing September 5 has been fixed for the Exeter meeting. This meeting will conclude with an excursion on the following Friday.

The librarian of the British Museum, Dr Kenyon, is the president-elect for the year and will preside over the proceedings at Exeter. Exeter is not only a most interesting and historical town, but is situated in the midst of a charming district, and is within easy reach of Dartmoor, Exmoor, Torquay, Plymouth, Ilfracombe and Bristol.

Yours faithfully,

L. STANLEY JAST,

Hon. secretary, Library association.

H. TAPLEY-SOPER,

City librarian, Exeter, and local secretary for annual meeting of Library association, 1910.

The Old Librarian's Almanack

IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES for March Theodore W. Koch writes about "The old librarian's almanack." His article is keenly critical, but good-humored. In one place he makes a curious error.

He says that the words, "lose his guess" in the jingle

Cold weather in excess
Or J. B. will lose his guess,

constitute "a modern slang phrase which establishes the modernity of the whole beyond dispute."

"Lose his guess" sounds modern enough, but unfortunately for Mr Koch's argument, the rhyme is the *only* one in "The old librarian's almanack" which I took practically verbatim from a genuine work dated 1773. Joseph Perry's New Haven Almanac for 1774 (which is mentioned in Evans's American bibliography) has at the date December 22-23

Cold weather now to an excess
Or Doctor Jo will loose his guess.

"Loose" is, of course, an archaic spelling for "lose." So Mr Koch's most conclusive bit of evidence of the modernity of the "Almanack" turns out to be the only rhyme in the book really ancient. If he examine Perry's Almanac further, he will discover the extent of my indebtedness to Joseph Perry for *astronomical and meteorological information*.

Mr Koch and Helen E. Haines in the *Library Journal*, point out a number of genuine modern notes in the "Almanack." I think I could name at least 20 which they have not mentioned.

E. L. PEARSON.

Newburyport, Mass., March 3, 1910.

Still Found Inaccurate

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the March number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, Mr Shaw of Worcester calls attention to the many inaccuracies of Patterson's School and college directory, and asks if others have found it unreliable.

The publishers sent us a copy of the 1909 edition, and, on examination, I found four out of seven items relating to Andover to be absolutely incorrect, being from two to five years behind the times. Information concerning other

localities, of which I had some knowledge, proved equally inaccurate.

In the preface the publishers state that the issue "has been thoroughly revised and brought down to date, and that, before final printing, proofs were submitted to the head of each institution for O. K. or correction."

This statement is absolutely false as regards Andover.

EDNA A. BROWN, Librarian.

Memorial Hall library, Andover, Mass., March 8, 1910.

Referring to Mr Shaw's letter in March issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, page 105, Mr Stevens of Pratt institute, Brooklyn, calls attention to similar criticisms made on Patterson's college and school directory in *Library Journal*, in 1907.

Mr. Stevens concludes: "It would seem that the directory had not undertaken to rectify the errors referred to hitherto, and still remains an untrustworthy work against which reference librarians should again be warned."

Concerning Careless Criticism

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The writer of the communication headed "Stones instead of bread" in your last issue has made a very strange error, and one that it would seem is without justification. Libraries are open to criticism in enough different directions, without having the sins of book-stores laid to their charge. The "stones," which he charges are given in lieu of "bread" by the public libraries to their readers, it appears are books which have been sold in ordinary trade channels in the different cities of the country, consequently his whole argument falls to the ground. It is explicitly stated in the *Bookman* that their records are of books sold in the various centers. That would be enough in itself to show that it was not the circulation of public libraries that was in question.

GEO. H. TRIPP.

New Bedford, Mass.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Extension of library activity—With the passage of the law providing most generously for a library commission for Kentucky, there is another new field opened for library extension that offers opportunity for important work. The Southeast is probably the most active field at present, with its several new library commissions and growing interest in library development, and deserves congratulations on the hopeful condition for effective library extension.

A. L. A. membership—Sec. Hadley of the A. L. A. is making a commendable effort to bring the value of membership in the association to the notice of library authorities throughout the country. Among other arguments which he advances why library workers of every grade, library trustees and those interested in civic betterment should become members of the association, he states the following:

The purposes of the association are the promotion of library interests, the inter-

change of experience and opinion, the obtaining of larger results from library labor and expenditure, and the advancement of the profession of librarianship. Its aims are:

1) By organization and force of numbers to effect needed reforms and improvements, most of which could not be brought about by individual effort.

2) By coöperation, to lessen labor and expense of library administration.

3) By discussion and comparison, to utilize the combined experiments and experience of the profession in perfecting plans and methods, and in solving difficulties.

4) By meetings and correspondence, to promote acquaintance and *esprit de corps*.

Membership means particular advantages to the individual and more effective work by an organization which stands for the advancement of all.

If the spirit of coöperation is mutual, library members and individual members will receive more than value due for the \$5 and \$3, respectively, which are dues for membership.

A debatable question—At the recent meeting of the Connecticut library association a resolution was offered and referred to the executive board to the effect that the New England states have a joint library meeting some time the first part of next June.

As a separate proposition, there are many attractive sides to such an idea. New England in the early summer is very beautiful. The long, hard service of the winter usually begins to tell on the vitality of librarians by June, and the need for change, a little rest and personal contact is usually much in evidence at that time. There is considerable in common in the problems of the New England libraries. There are many librarians in New England who feel it is without their "scheme of things" to go far from home, hence the meeting close at hand is attractive.

But it must not be forgotten that the national gathering of librarians comes the last of June, and every argument in favor of such a meeting as has been mentioned, holds good in favor of the A. L. A. meeting at Mackinac, and to a much larger degree. Moreover, it is highly probable that New England librarians who would otherwise attend the A. L. A. meeting, will feel that their duty to the profession will be satisfied when they have attended the local gathering. Nothing could be further from the facts than this last.

The greatest good that comes from the general meeting of librarians is the opportunity it gives to meet those from other sections of the country. The jolt, as it may be called, that prevents notions bounded by a provincial outlook from hardening into principles, and the opportunity to hear things said aloud with a different setting of time and environment, often gives them different meaning to the hearer from that gathered by the solitary reader as he peruses them in the printed proceedings later.

The opportunity for the East to meet the West and the West to come in contact with the South, Canadian library workers to meet their professional brethren regardless of imaginary land boundaries, and the Middle West on this occasion to bestir itself in the capacity of local host, is altogether too momentous to be in any way diminished by another gathering of local scope so near to the time set for the A. L. A. meeting, June 30-July 6.

It is to be greatly hoped that the executive board of the Connecticut library association, to whom the resolution was referred, will keep in mind the loyalty due to the A. L. A., so that all things

shall work together for good to those for whom associations are maintained.

When one considers the call for earnest labor of head and hand that is made by the daily demands on the library everywhere, the need for support of a state organization to meet local questions in open debate and the necessity of a national gathering of all library workers, one is forced to conclude that other meetings than these would be more than any individual can rightfully attend, or, indeed, than is needed or consistent with obligation to all.

The article "Stones for bread" in the March number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES was received at a late date from an eastern librarian in a position where general statements regarding library statistics should pass without question, as a usual thing. That it should not have done so in this particular case is proof positive that "it is the unexpected that happens."

When attention was called to the grievous error, "Librarian" responded.

"I deeply regret my not observing the general heading of the *Bookman* statistics. For years I have been under the delusion that these statistics concerned libraries and they have grated on me. This does not excuse me, I know, but is an honest explanation of how it happened. I regret it exceedingly and especially for the sake of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, as it was taken in good faith. It was not willfully false, though undefensible enough."

PUBLIC LIBRARIES deeply regrets its mistake of overconfidence in the word of the writer of the article, and sincerely hopes the matter will not result seriously for any concerned.

"Tis a Consummation Devoutly to Be Wished"

In 1908 some 500 teachers in America were given an opportunity to visit England and the Continent—or, rather, to visit England or the Continent under conditions which made a trip possible to one whose income was sufficient to support him at home. Teachers were nominated by their respective boards (I should have said only teachers of public schools were included), and appointed by an executive board in New York. The position, location and preparation of the applicant were taken into consideration in selecting from those applying. It was intended to give the opportunity to teachers from every section of the United States, and to such as came well recommended by their boards. Through the executive committee in New York every accepted applicant received an order on one of the steamship companies in New York for a ticket. The entire cost of the ocean voyage from New York and back was \$25. Teachers had to go second class, and were assigned to different ships in parties of 10. They were required to leave New York between August and March, and to return not later than April.

As a rule, these teachers were allowed to employ substitutes at a lower salary than they themselves received, and as they managed to include some holiday time in their absence, and paid the substitutes only for the actual days of work, they were in receipt of some income during their absence. It has been my good fortune to know two or three of the happy beneficiaries of this most far-seeing philanthropy. What this larger outlook has meant to the teachers themselves is more easily imagined than described. Dull routine and deadening sameness has forever fled from their lives. Henceforth they breathe a diviner air and their horizon can never again be a narrow one. But what it means for the children they teach is something beyond all calculation. Sup-

pose each one of these 500 teachers ministers to 100 children—and that is a very modest estimate—then 50,000 children are the wiser and better taught for this educational advantage provided for the teachers.

In August of this year there will be an international congress of librarians at Brussels. Suppose some Rockefeller foundation or Carnegie fund, or Sage foundation, or General education board, should undertake a similar plan for the advantage of librarians in the United States. Suppose these librarians, scattered over all this broad land, should be given the chance of travel—the opportunity to see the things they strive to make real to the little readers who throng the children's rooms in all our public libraries. Suppose such a beautiful, wonderful thing as this should come to pass—is there anything which could put such life into their service? Is this not within the scope of the A. L. A.? Could anything be suggested which would give a greater impetus to the organization than such an enterprise undertaken for the good of its members? Could any number of books mean as much to the frequenters of libraries as would the increased capacity of the librarian who would know how to profit by such a trip. Nobody, not even a teacher, knows how to get such great and immediate results from travel as does a trained librarian. I dare to believe that this is not a visionary plan.

One more question, and I am done. Is there no one among the library trustees, library lovers and librarians of the A. L. A. who would like to take the lead in such a movement?

KATE PLEASANTS MINOR.

Reference librarian Va. State library.

[What an attractive idea! The contemplation of it almost makes a librarian wish to be a teacher! Why does not the librarian as a public factor come into the same relations with other factors as does the teacher? A question for debate.—EDITOR P. L.]

An Interesting Exhibit

The International Typographical Union is one of the most progressive and broadminded of all labor organizations. It has supported for a good many years a sanitarium and tuberculosis home for infirm and aged printers at Colorado Springs, Colo. This is a very beautifully situated and attractive institution, which I had the pleasure of visiting a few weeks ago.

This same typographical union supports a correspondence school of printing in Chicago. Its full title and address is "The International Typographical Union course of instruction in printing, conducted by the Inland Printer technical school under the direction of the I. T. U. commission on supplemental trade education, 120-130 Sherman street, Chicago."

One of the commissioners in charge of the school, who is also secretary of the International typographical union commission, is W. B. Prescott.

We have been in correspondence with Mr Prescott for several months with relation to a traveling exhibit of the work of the students of this printing school. The labor of securing material for this exhibit from the students, who are widely scattered over the United States, was very great. Mr Prescott finally brought together a sufficient number of examples of their work to make an attractive and instructive display. In accordance with our suggestion, he mounted the material on sheets of cardboard of a neutral tint and of the size used in our library for mounts for pictures generally, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 17$ inches.

Also, Mr Prescott printed appropriate labels for the mounts, also posters describing the exhibition, and furnished us with a supply of circulars and pamphlets telling of the work of the school.

W. H. Small, president of the Newark branch of the International typographical union, has helped us very

greatly, not only in this matter, but in the forming of exhibitions of the work of local printers.

The traveling exhibition includes 197 mounts. When packed for shipment it weighs about 60 pounds.

The Typographical union now offers this exhibit to the libraries of the country to be displayed by them if they see fit. We hope that many libraries will express a desire to show this material and a willingness to pay the trifling expense connected with it, the cost of the express from the last library that may have shown it.

Wherever it may be shown it will be sure to arouse the interest of local printers and of local printers' unions.

Mr Small has kindly agreed to send a letter to the secretary of the local union of any town in which the exhibit is shown commending it to the attention of printers and asking that they coöperate with the library that shows it in making its display a success.

The collection is now ready to start on its travels.

Communications concerning it should be addressed to the Free public library, Newark, N. J.

March 10, 1910. J. C. DANA.

A Look Backward by An Ex-Librarian

A letter from Mrs Martha H. G. Banks, for many years well known in New York library circles, but now retired on account of ill health, gives some interesting reminiscences as follows:

The account of the A. L. A. headquarters quite justifies the transfer from Boston. With great interest I follow the movements of the Library institute. I am much delighted with Miss Freeman's experiment in Library extension, as told in February PUBLIC LIBRARIES. It recalled my efforts among the express drivers in Paterson, before any library was started.

Before I entered the library school in 1887 I had been private secretary to a prominent silk manufacturer for five years. In handling the product between that city and New York, the contract was given to local ex-

press companies, and some dozen drivers of the teams came specially under my notice. Soon it became a study and a pleasure to supply them with reading matter, and invariably I received their comments. One told me, "You see, ma'am, I don't go to the saloon and the books shut off the kid's noise so I don't mind their squalls, and the books go good with a pipe."

At the time I entered the Columbia library school, to have had a college education was one of the conditions to entrance. I told Mr Dewey, with my varied opportunities of life, if I did not know enough to hold my own with any college-bred girl or woman it was high time to find it out. My school days were long past. I went from one home of wealth and refinement to another on my marriage, and these five years in Paterson, when the world revolved so fast for me, were my initial experience in facing the practical life. When I began this different sort of experience in Paterson you can readily believe I kept my eyes wide open. Finally Mr Dewey accepted my five years of commercial life in lieu of college training.

You will think I am a garrulous old lady, but I am doing the talking to, I hope, an interested listener. You see it was the same spirit of library extension in me that Marilla W. Freeman has carried out.

Mrs Banks is a very cheery "shut-in," 2914 Broadway, New York, to whom PUBLIC LIBRARIES is under obligation for encouraging messages from time to time.

Art Galleries in Library Buildings

In answer to an inquiry as to what connection existed between the Public library and the art association at Cedar Rapids, the librarian responded as given below. The answer contains suggestive material for consideration by other libraries in towns remote from art centers.

We feel that in cities where separate art galleries are out of the question that the public library building is the logical place for a collection of good pictures.

The art association was organized to provide pictures for the art gallery. Most of the money taken in from memberships is used to buy pictures. We have purchased "The gathering storm," by Ben Foster, and the Art club, a small club of young women who have had exhibits for a number of years, has

given us "The shadowy bank," by Charles Francis Brown, of the Chicago art institute.

Members pay from one to five dollars a year and at present there are 130 dollar members and about 20 others who pay from \$2 to \$5. We think that having the exhibit such a success and having it free so that all could come frequently, helped to make the movement known in a very favorable way. The treasurer says that the responses to her due notices just sent out have been exceedingly prompt. It will be slow work to build up a collection of fine paintings, but we think it pays. We were greatly pleased to see how well the pictures we own looked with those which came in the exhibit. This particular exhibit was selected by Mrs Johnston, of Richmond, Ind. She went to New York and interviewed the artists personally. The same pictures were exhibited in a number of places. It was a very well-rounded collection, representing a number of different phases of American art. A number of talks on art and on these particular pictures were given in the schools. Mrs Loomis and I went together and separately to tell the children personally about the pictures. They seemed intensely interested, and it was a pleasure to find that the art instruction they had received in school had furnished them with understanding minds.

"We're made so that we love
First when we see them painted, things
we passed
Perhaps a hundred times nor cared to
see;
And so they are better, painted—better
to us,
Which is the same thing.
Art was given for that;
God uses us to help each other so,
Lending our minds out."

I think it is too bad to deprive our children here in Iowa of the great joy of seeing real pictures just because they happen to live so far from art centers. This exhibit is intended to help supply

this need. We believe that seeing a few really good pictures once a year is worth many volumes of printed descriptions of them.

The responsibility of the exhibit was taken by the association. The pictures when purchased are the property of the library board and hence of the city. The treasurer of the association is also the treasurer of the board. This need not be so, but it helps to bring the two boards together. We shall not be satisfied until we have all of our citizens of all classes enrolled as members. I believe some clubs are members.

Mrs Johnston came and gave us a lecture this year on the movement in Richmond, Ind. If you know of any inspiring talkers on art we shall be grateful if you will let us know about them. We want to have at least one public lecture each year. It is hard to get inspiring speakers.

A Library Commission for Kentucky

A law creating a library commission and defining its powers and duties and providing for the expense, has been passed by the general assembly of Kentucky. The commission is made up of five members appointed by the Governor for a term of four years, one of whom at least shall be a woman. In addition to the usual provision for officers and support, it is stated that "the secretary shall be a person trained in modern library methods not a member of the commission." The law provides \$6000 a year for the use of the commission.

As a nation we are intolerant of rest. If we have a brilliant man, we insist upon his always shining. We kill three-fourths of our truly great men in the prime of life by expecting too much of them, and then call the legitimate results of our forcing system a dispensation of Providence. Like the earth, minds must lie fallow at times. Perpetual crops will exhaust any soil, and perpetual excitement will wear out any mind or body.

Source Books*

Professor Thomas' book, which was published recently by the University of Chicago press, represents a class of books which should prove of particular value to small libraries where the funds available for the purchase of books do not admit of the purchase of original sources to any large extent, or where the present constituency does not demand any extensive collection of original material. Prof. Thomas has brought together in his book about 50 papers by the foremost sociologists of the past century, dealing authoritatively with various phases of the science of man as a social animal. He has not in all cases selected writings of men with whose opinion he in all matters agrees, but has selected what he regards as significant, using the method of letting the different views of the various writers supplement each other. The unity of thought he has supplied by the introduction and the summaries which he himself has contributed to each division of the work. A very valuable feature of the book is to be found in the extensive, selected and graded bibliographies which follow each division, with supplementary lists brought together at the end of the volume. One of the latter is called "Books recommended for purchase," and gives a list of 100 more recent books, which "is offered with smaller libraries and individual purchasers in view." This list and the starred references in the other lists offer an excellent way for small but growing libraries to build up an efficient department of sociology—a subject which is becoming more and more important as men and women, in ever-increasing numbers, are beginning to take an intelligent and enlightened interest in the activity of our complex modern society.

The volume on "Sociology and so-

*Source book for social origins, William I. Thomas, University of Chicago Press.
Sociology and social progress, T. N. Carver, Ginn & Co.

cial progress" compiled by Prof. T. N. Carver of Harvard can be regarded, in a way, as a continuation of Prof. Thomas' book. While the latter deals with the origins, the former is chiefly concerned with our present-day society. "What economists and historians need," says Prof. Carver, "is not an opinion as to the relative importance of the various factors which have determined the course of history, but a clear perception of the importance of a first-hand study of the factors and forces in the contemporary social world." And not only economists and historians need such a perception. Every one of us who is a member of a modern society, and not merely a passive member, needs such a basis. Here lies the twofold value of sociological study: If the historical student needs the basis of present-day society in order to understand the past, the rest of us need the basis supplied by a theoretical knowledge of past society—more or less remote—in order to understand the society in which we live and the forces at work therein. Here lies the great practical value of such presentation as is offered in the two collections of Prof. Thomas and Prof. Garver.

AKSEL G. S. JOSEPHSON.

The John Crerar library, Chicago.

Anti-Librisection—A Reply to Mr Foster

A few years ago the *Independent* published an article which emphasized the need of better library service to men. As the *Independent* is much read by librarians, this article was discussed in many of their conferences, and its effect was both far-reaching and salutary.

Recalling the wide influence of the former article, a note of warning to librarians may be ventured against the too hasty adoption of Mr Foster's suggestions concerning "Reference libraries for busy men," as contained in a recent issue of the *Independent*. It

should be understood that only the practical expediency of Mr Foster's plan is questioned, in its application to the ordinary public or college library; not its abstract convenience in special and peculiar instances.

He advises us to tear up our magazines and to sort and reassemble the fragments according to the subjects with which they deal. The idea of such book-mangling is naturally offensive to the librarian's instincts. But if needs must we can stifle such old-fashioned, sentimental consideration. It must be admitted that, once accomplished, such an arrangement would be convenient, though untidy. But it would also be very costly. Let us balance the convenience against the cost.

One reading-room copy of each magazine will be needed to place in the additional unbound file which he would have us still preserve. In the number of the *Independent* in which his article appears, a single leaf contains on its two sides portions of two equally important essays on widely divergent subjects. As it is impracticable to split the single piece of paper, we must buy two copies of the *Independent* for dismemberment, in addition to our reading-room copy. Thus we must multiply by three the sum of our bill for magazines.

Our monumental library buildings demand at least decent furnishings. The card catalog filing case for a library of only 20,000 v. costs over \$100. What sum shall we allow annually for filing cases, to accommodate the fragments of 70 magazines, aggregating about 100,000 pages?

Our cataloging bill is a large one. But the labor of dismembering our magazines, fastening together again the leaves of our "separates," choosing and inscribing and "cross-referencing" the proper subject headings, filing and keeping in order our loose and ragged files—all this will take well-nigh as much time and money as the cataloging. This truly will be a costly undertaking. And now—what is its advantage? The mere convenience of keeping all ephemer-

eral matter on the same subject physically assembled in a single envelope.

Every well-equipped library possesses such tools as will enable the librarian to bring together in a few moments practically the same material. We have already the indexes, which tell us where such material may be found in the magazines, and the records of current events which serve as universal indexes to newspaper files. If these tools are as awe-inspiring to the uninitiated public as Mr Foster would have us believe, an assistant may be detailed to place the volumes before the reader, opened at the proper page. The material will not be in shape for removal in a vest pocket, and its assembling may entail five minutes' wait for the reader and five minutes' work for the assistant; but this surely is a more sensible procedure than to require the library staff to spend hours—this means dollars—in daily preparation for heterogeneous possible demands, only a small percentage of which will ever become actual.

Mr Foster makes one point which will cause many a galled librarian to wince. He deplores the vexatious and too frequent instances when the desired magazine is reported "at the bindery." The college librarian may avoid this by having his books bound during the summer vacation. Public librarians might minimize this trouble by keeping their magazines unbound till they have become "back numbers" indeed—say for five years.

The importance of the up-to-date information which can be secured only through the medium of the periodical press cannot be overestimated. But if we have "Poole," the *Readers' Guide*, and the technical and document indexes, then we shall do very well in 99 cases out of 100 and will not begrudge Mr Foster his hard-earned satisfaction in beating us and the Library of Congress on the hundredth case. There are too many other demands upon the time and treasuries of librarians.

ASA DON DICKINSON.

Atlantic City Meeting

New Jersey

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey library associations was held at the Hotel Chelsea in Atlantic City on March 4-5. The general sessions were preceded by two special sessions arranged to meet the need, more especially, of the smaller New Jersey libraries.

Thursday evening the library was presented from the standpoint of the school by Dr H. M. Leipziger of New York, from the standpoint of the club by Mrs Frank A. Pattison, president of the New Jersey Federation of Women's clubs, and from the standpoint of the public by Judge A. T. Sweeny of Newark. All the papers were most ably given. Dr Leipziger spoke of the history, the former varied government, and the ideals of the New York public libraries and the school libraries. He made a plea for coöperation between the school and the library, and for adherence to those ideals which will result in the fusion of the many nationalities that come to our shores in search of that opportunity that to them spells America, into a nation that will not imperil the future of our democracy.

Mrs Pattison read a most thoughtful paper defending the women's clubs along the lines of most frequent attack and urged a coöperation and sympathy which will make for the welfare of both.

The open country

The needs of the inhabitants of the "open country" and the practical assistance the neighboring libraries could give to the more isolated communities, was the theme of Judge Sweeny's talk. He spoke with a broad sympathy that has come from a wide experience. The influence of granges upon the growth of country life, the many desires which spring from this education that comes from associa-

tion, and the part the library could play in helping this portion of the public to realize these desires, the value to the farmer of an agricultural education and the ability of the library to supply this when lacking, were a few of the points which brought home to Judge Sweeny's audience a realm of neglected opportunity. He named Prof. Voorhees of Rutgers college as being one of the men whose influence is most felt, and whose books should be most widely read in agricultural circles. The "Training of the farm boy," and the "State and the farmer," by Dr L. H. Bailey of Cornell, and "Chapters in rural progress," by Mr Butterfield, should be freely circulated from those libraries having farming districts within their radius of influence. He urged the distribution of authoritative literature on practical subjects and made a most eloquent plea for that kind of sympathy which will make every librarian classify her people as well as her books and fill their need accordingly, so that their acquisition, their care, their make-up, their hidden treasure, their poetry or tragedy of life, will fill his heart with the same amount of interest and responsiveness that now comes from the acquisition and care of a well-bound book. If the same degree of analysis, the same desire to place in an appropriate place, the same earnestness to give to the world for its uplift, the people who come or who must be brought to the library, were bestowed upon the public as is now bestowed upon a book, then indeed the library would fulfill its function and would be a vital force in every community where Carnegie or the women have placed it.

Friday morning 13 topics of interest from various standpoints were discussed in short papers. Book selection, government documents, reference work with schools, economic administration, periodicals, local history, and civil service for librarians,

length of service, promotions, substitutes, vacations and salaries being among the topics of interest.

Friday afternoon an informal reception in the rose room of the Chelsea was greatly enjoyed by the many who attended.

Saturday morning the New Jersey program included a paper by Adeline A. Buffington of Madison, N. J., on "Some problems confronting small communities and the libraries part in solving them." She set forth the opportunities of the library as a distributing center for information about civic problems. Clara H. Whitmore talked on "Women's work in English fiction," and Prof. Johnstone on "Practical application of child study." Prof. Johnstone spoke from his experience as a worker along educational lines, covering a number of years and as the present superintendent of the Vineland, N. J., Training school for backward children. His talk was instructive and highly entertaining, and was a very strong plea for tolerance in dealing with children of all grades of intelligence.

"Lincoln in the making of an American," was the subject of the speech of Ex-Governor Stokes of New Jersey on Saturday evening. He spoke most eloquently of the life and influence of Lincoln, and of the effect the reading of a few good books many times had had upon his character and reputation as an orator. With this as his example he urged the librarians to sacrifice the quantity of books circulated to the quality of books circulated, naming as a reward the creating through the medium of the library, of the Lincoln type of American.

Mr Stokes was followed by Horace Howard Furness, jr, assistant editor of the New Variorum Shakespeare. He dwelt upon the relative merits of the quarto and folio and their present commercial value, upon the comparative merits and the history of the compilation of the editions of Rowe,

Pope, Tibbell, Johnson, Stevens, Boswell, Malone, Knight, Collier, Dyce, Singer, Hallowell, White, Hudson, Wright, and Clark, which settled the controversy between the quarto and the folio, of the German edition of Lessing, and finally of the *New Variorum*, the work of his father and himself.

The association voted the conference a most enjoyable one and thanked the speakers and the hotel management for their conspicuous part in its success.

EDNA B. PRATT.

Pennsylvania

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association was held at the Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N. J., on Friday and Saturday, March 4-5, 1910. With an excellent program and good weather, what more could the 250 members and their friends who attended the meeting ask for? The mayor made his usual gracious address of welcome at the first session held on Friday, March 4, 1910, which was under the direction of the Pennsylvania library club.

Miss Neisser read a most interesting and instructive paper on "Library facilities for the blind in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware"; John Russell Hayes, librarian of Swarthmore college, read original verses, "In Praise of Books"; Miss Donnelly, librarian Drexel institute and director of the library school, presented a valuable paper on

The library school and the library

Miss Donnelly clearly shows that "if the purpose of the library school is to produce those who are capable of good work in libraries, the success of such a school must depend upon the relations it establishes with libraries. The desirable relations to establish between libraries and the schools seem to me to be, first, that of mutual knowledge, second, that of coöpera-

tion during the period of training, third, of confidence on the part of libraries in the results of the training.

But library work requires more than enthusiasm and technical training, it needs an ever increasing knowledge of books and men and affairs. The public collectively knows so much more than the best equipped librarian, that I marvel to hear anyone speak of it in the disdainful tone which is common enough. While the school can do little to impart general knowledge, far less culture, it can insist upon its value, and try to keep alive the scholarly instincts of its students, and arouse them to a livelier curiosity in the interests of the world around them, so that they will go out, as capable of work in a large library as in a small one; as eager to be of assistance to the scholar as to the child.

If mutual knowledge and coöperation lead to sympathetic understanding and confidence, the purpose of the school will have been fulfilled, for it will have sent forth workers capable of rendering service, and the libraries will give them the chance to perform it, for even here the right kind of laborers are few compared to the field."

George W. Cable, who has made us all so familiar with the beautiful dreamy South, delighted the large audience with sketches of Dr Sevier in a manner which brought back the delights and charm of "Old Creole days," and we all agreed with him that "It was very beautiful to see the summer set in," and almost fancied we could hear the humming-birds—so graphic were his descriptions.

F. W. Faxson, chairman of the travel committee of the A. L. A., presented the plans of the committee for the conference, which will be held this year at Mackinaw Island in June, and also of the International congress at Brussels in August.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN, Secy.

A. L. A. Notes

Plans for the meeting of the A. L. A. at Mackinac Island, June 30-July 6, are being rapidly consummated, and the outlook for an interesting and pleasant meeting is most promising.

A note from F. W. Faxon, A. L. A. travel secretary, announces that arrangements are being rapidly completed to care for the special parties desiring to travel together to the A. L. A. meeting at Mackinac. The plans will undoubtedly include a steamer trip for the middle West party starting from Chicago, and a steamer from either Cleveland or Detroit for the eastern parties. Definite ideas as to rates cannot be given at this time, but the round trip from New York will probably be under \$30, exclusive of Pullman, meals and stateroom. A post-conference trip covering one week will be planned, to include probably the north channel of Lake Huron and parts of Georgian Bay, and the Ontario wilderness.

Mr Faxon has appointed the following assistant travel secretaries, who will be glad to furnish all information regarding transportation to Mackinac that is desired: Katherine L. Swift, Boston; C. H. Brown, Brooklyn public library; John F. Phelan, Chicago public library.

Complete details and program will appear in the May A. L. A. bulletin. June 30 will be the opening day of the conference. Headquarters during the conference will be at the Grand hotel. The hotel is a large one, 700 feet long, three stories high, and has comfortable accommodations for 800 guests. An orchestra of 16 pieces will furnish music every afternoon and evening. Free transportation will be given to and from the dock. Hotel rates for members of A. L. A. are \$2.50, single rate without bath; \$2.50 and \$3, double rate with bath; \$3.50, single rate with bath. Fractional day rates will be granted.

Application has been made for the usual fare and three-fifths rate on the certificate plan for round trip to Mackinac and return. The regular summer excursion rates will likely be in force and permit more latitude for the return trip, as they are good during the entire summer. One way rate to Mackinac from Boston, \$22; New York, \$21; Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, \$20; Chicago, \$8.56. The round trip summer rate from Chicago will be \$11.80, on sale, June 1, with return limit October 31.

Registration for the official steamer to Brussels continues. The travel committee will be glad to send a list of those registered, on request, to any who are doubtful about going because they do not know whether acquaintances will be along or not. Everyone having a thought of going is urged to make an immediate deposit of \$10 to the Bureau of University Travel, as the demands for accommodations are double this summer what it has ever been before. Librarians are urged to send 10 francs (\$2) to M. Louis Stainier, Royal library, 20 Grand place, Brussels, Belgium, and thus become a member entitled to the transactions whether attending the meeting or not. Several librarians are planning to leave with the Bureau of University Travel, Route C, June 25, meeting the regular A. L. A. party in Brussels.

A letter from Dr A. V. Meyer suggests that a typical American branch library building (not of stone, but decorated wood) be erected in Berlin during the German commercial exhibit, to represent the modern American branch library, "with the 8000 v. of the A. L. A. catalog, not simply exhibited in a dead state, but in action, with two or three American library officials, lending out and administering the reading room, the children's department with story telling, etc."

The committee on federal relations reports that certain practices of pub-

lishers of magazines appearing to be contrary to the Sherman anti-trust act. The matter, together with the evidence which the committee was able to obtain, was laid before the Department of Justice of the United States, which reported later there was no ground for instituting a prosecution unless additional evidence should appear.

A request was sent Hon. John W. Weeks of Massachusetts, chairman of the congressional committee on post-offices, asking that the provision for extending the privilege of second-class postage to libraries, which was embodied in the bill introduced by Mr Overstreet in the last Congress, be renewed in the bill to be introduced at this session. Libraries which are a part of the city government, and have not a separate board of trustees, are not entitled to second-class rates under the existing laws, and it is suggested that librarians of such libraries write to Mr Weeks, urging upon him the inclusion of the provisions of the bill introduced by Mr Overstreet.

A. L. A. Committee on Binding Recommendations

The firm of E. P. Dutton & Co. has decided to issue a special library edition of Everyman's library. All the books in this library will be bound practically according to the specifications of the A. L. A. committee on binding. The entire library may be obtained in cloth at the uniform rate of 35 cents a volume, or in half pigskin at 60 cents a volume. The advantages of these books are many.

1) It brings within the means of the smallest library the best literature of all times at a cost which is prohibitive to none.

2) The books will be so strongly bound that they will never need to be rebound. When necessary to withdraw from circulation they can be thrown away and new copies purchased.

3) They occupy very little space and are so cheap, so durable and artistic

that the large libraries may find it advantageous to get a large number of duplicates of the more popular titles.

4) The fact that the special edition will be kept in stock and can be obtained at short notice adds largely to its value.

N. E. A.

Library department meeting

The A. L. A. committee on coöperation of N. E. A. is making an effort to present such an object lesson of the value of the library as a reinforcement of the school at the meeting of the N. E. A. at Boston, July 1-8, as to entirely dissipate the disposition to drop the library department in the process of elimination now going on in the N. E. A.

There will be several exhibits showing material of interest to teachers. There will be lists of books for children; a small professional library for teachers, with some bibliographical material; a collection of professional magazines for teachers, to include magazines of special character, elementary, high, manual training, psychology, defectives, etc.

Two meetings have been provided for the library department, and one round table in joint meeting, with the elementary section. It is proposed to present the subject of library training for teachers in normal schools, with some statements from teachers who have been thus trained. At the next session it is proposed to discuss the high school library.

At the round table the subject of reference work with children of the elementary schools will be discussed. Miss Robbins, director of the Library school of Simmons college, will take charge of the exhibit. Mrs Maltby of New York has agreed to take charge of the joint round table.

Dr James W. Sturgis, principal of the Normal school at Geneseo, N. Y., will present the subject of Library training in Normal schools.

Library Schools

Drexel institute

Mr Reinick, chief of the department of public documents in the Free library of Philadelphia, repeated before the students on Tuesday, March 1, the illustrated lecture on "Book-worms," which he recently delivered before the Pennsylvania library club. Some interesting theories were advanced concerning the insects which ravage books.

The school migrated to Atlantic City to attend the bi-state meeting on March 4-5. It was a pleasant initiation into association meetings, with the judicious mixture of program and out-of-doors for which library gatherings are famous. An impromptu Drexel luncheon brought together more than 40 graduates and students.

The picture bulletins made by the school this year have a wide range of subject and considerable originality in treatment. They were placed on public exhibition in the great court of the institute on March 10.

J. R. DONNELLY, Director.

New York State library

At the invitation of the librarian and trustees of the Gloversville (N. Y.) free library, the school visited the library February 21. A. L. Peck, the librarian, gave most interesting explanations of the varied work of his library and the reasons for the adoption of many methods and devices peculiar to this library. Hon. Daniel Hays and Judge A. D. L. Baker of the board of trustees, entertained the school at luncheon at the Windsor hotel.

One of the most practical lectures given before the school this season was that on "Technical books," by Edward F. Stevens, librarian of Pratt institute. Mr Stevens' talk was a discussion of the general principles to be observed in selecting technical books and in getting them used

by readers. Particular emphasis was laid on the value of trade catalogs and other trade publications.

Recent lectures in the advanced administration course have been as follows:

February 18. Harriet A. Wood. The Cedar Rapids public library, a discussion of the administrative problems characteristic of the work of a moderate sized public library.

February 24-25. Emma V. Bladwin, librarian's secretary, Brooklyn public library. Office routine and methods in a large public library (2 lectures), a discussion of the central business organization of a large branch system.

March 1-2. Linda A. Eastman, vice-librarian, Cleveland public library. The Cleveland public library (2 lectures), a detailed description of the organization and the general principles involved in the management of the central library and branches.

F. K. WALTER.

New York public library

Miriam B. Wharton, Drexel institute, class of 1902, has been transferred from the Aguilar branch to be assistant instructor of the training class.

Of the 24 members of the class of 1909 who qualified for appointment, 19 have been permanently appointed, one has gone to college, four have accepted other positions, though two of these may return.

There are 26 students in the class of 1910.

During the nine years there have been graduated from this training class 191 members, 165 of whom have received appointments on the staff of the library, and 115 were remaining in their positions Dec. 31, 1909; four have taken other library school courses, two having been graduated from the New York state library school; two have gone to college instead of taking an appointment; 11 have married, and at least 16 are now filling other library positions. Of the 115 now on the staff, three are librarians in charge, eight are first assistants and two are children's librarians.

Plans are in preparation for making

the work next year include more advanced training, which shall prepare college women for the higher grade positions on the staff.

ELIZABETH L. FOOTE, Instructor.

Pratt institute

The dates of Miss Brown's and Miss Burnite's lectures, the first on "The work of the organizer," and the second on "Furniture and fittings of children's rooms," have been assigned definitely as May 3 and May 27. Miss Pomeroy of the library staff will give the lecture on book-buying, April 19 and 21.

Plans for the spring field-work during the Easter vacation included Troy, Springfield, Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, Medford, Providence and Newport. The visiting included the libraries of these various cities, March 25-April 2. Time for recreation and sightseeing was allowed.

Among the Institute privileges open to the school during the year has been attendance on lectures, concerts, readings and organ and song recitals by noted people.

A brief visit from Linda A. Eastman of the Cleveland public library was one of the events of the month. Miss Eastman was a guest at the farewell tea given by the library staff to Miss Hinsdale.

Anna Le Crone (1895) is cataloger in the Dayton public library after several years in school work.

Henrietta Bartlett (1902) is engaged in cataloging the library of Beverly Chew, of New York.

Edyth Miller (1903) is cataloging an astronomical library at the City college.

Margarethe Fritz (1904) is president of the Association of German women librarians, which has its headquarters in Berlin. The association has just published its first annual report.

Luella O. Boaman (1906) is now senior assistant in the Worcester public library.

Winona H. Buck (1908) has succeeded Miss Douglas as assistant to the Supervisor of work with children, in the New York public library.

Anna Burns (1908) was recently appointed librarian of the Hudson Park branch of the New York public library.

Donald Hendry (1908) is the acting-head of the applied science department in the Pratt institute free library.

Ethelwyn Gaston (1909) is engaged on a piece of special work at Columbia university library.

Lillian Griggs (1909) has been made first assistant of the Souard branch of the St Louis public library.

MARY W. PLUMMER.

Western Reserve university

On January 21, the school had the pleasure of a lecture from Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the University of Michigan library, on the difference between the administration of a university and a public library. After the formal lecture was over, Mr Koch very kindly showed to the students his collection of bookplates, which he had with him. Both features of his visit were much enjoyed by the faculty and students.

The alumni of the school will be interested to know that George F. Strong, recently appointed to the position of librarian of the Adelbert college library, took up his new duties, March 1.

Alumni notes

We note the following appointments among our graduates:

Mabel Newhard, '06, has resigned her position as librarian of the Carnegie library of Carey, O., to become librarian of the Public library of Virginia, Minn.

Jennie M. Flexner, '09, an assistant in the circulating department of the Public library of Louisville, Ky., has been placed in charge of the open shelf room of that department.

Mildred Parsons, '07, has been ap-

pointed librarian of the Prospect sub-branch of the Cleveland public library.

Wilda Strong, '08, has been appointed first assistant of the Alliance sub-branch of the Cleveland public library.

Edith M. Hill, '08, has been appointed first assistant of the St. Clair branch of the Cleveland public library.

Julia M. Whittlesey, Director.

Wisconsin

The fourth edition of the Wisconsin library school catalog for the year 1909-1910 was published March 10 and may be obtained by addressing the school. It contains an outline of the course of study, a statement of the qualifications required for entrance, specimen examination questions, and a complete list of graduates with their present positions.

The entrance requirements have been altered to include a knowledge of German, which will be required of all the students entering the school in September, 1911. "Although the language qualifications will not be required of those entering the school in September, 1910, it will be an important consideration in making up the class."

A circular giving information concerning the summer session of the library school is now ready for distribution and may be obtained on application.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,
Preceptor.

Summer school

The usual summer school for librarians will be held at Earlham college, Richmond, Ind., June 22-August 2. It will be under the direction of the Public library commission of Indiana, and further information regarding it may be obtained from Sec. Carl H. Milam, State Capitol, Indianapolis.

[Notice of other summer schools will appear next month.]

Library Meetings

Chicago—The March meeting of the Chicago library club, held at the Chicago public library, was most enjoyable. Ellen Fitzgerald of the Chicago Normal school gave a delightful address relating to personal experiences in using the libraries in London and Paris.

Miss Lewis of New York told of her work in renovating old bindings on rare books and urged greater attention to the subject by those in charge of them.

Miss Isom of Portland, the senior class of Illinois library school and many of the local binders were guests of the club.

Connecticut—The annual meeting of the Connecticut library association was held at the Public library of Bridgeport, Feb. 24, 1910. There was a fair attendance.

Owing to the illness of the president, Mr. Keogh, the chair was filled by the vice-president, Mr Thayer of Hartford. A brief address of welcome was made by Judge Beers, a director of the Public library.

The association has a membership of 222, 70 new members joining in 1909. The expenses for the year were \$103.10, leaving \$86.34 in the treasury. Miss Robbins brought greetings from the Western Massachusetts Library club with an invitation for the association to hold a joint meeting with the other New England states during the early part of June. The matter was referred to the executive board with power to act.

The first paper of the morning was by William A. Borden, of the Young Men's institute of New Haven, on the subject, Classification of fiction. All fiction is not included in this scheme, only the lesser lights. Standard and popular authors are left in their alphabetical places.

The 7000 v. of fiction in the institute library are about equally divided

between the two arrangements. If the library owns duplicate copies of standard authors a copy is classified. After one year of trial, without advertising, two-fifths of the fiction circulation comes from the classified shelves.

This was followed by a symposium, "The other librarian's way," three-minute talks on improved methods, time savers, etc. Many topics were touched on, from library indexes and flexible glue to automobile delivery of books.

The association was delightfully entertained at luncheon by the members of the library board.

The old officers were reelected for another year.

Miss Robbins of Simmons college spoke on "Our next of kin," the making as it were of a library will for the guidance of the people who follow us. She dwelt on the importance of the right and careful selection from the young people desiring to enter library work, and in recommending others for library positions. There are square holes for square people. We need more types as our field broadens. There is no room for cranks, but plenty for the person with executive ability, good judgment, and a knowledge of men, events and material things.

Dr Frederick W. Kilbourne, of the Brooklyn public library, next spoke on "General dictionaries of the English language." He clearly, briefly, and interestingly traced the evolution of the dictionary from its beginnings to the 1910 edition of Webster's New International. Then he took up the methods of compilation and spoke of the trained help and specialists required for the work.

The last speaker was Professor Chauncey B. Tinker of Yale, who carried us in a most delightful manner back to "Dr. Johnson and the age of conversation." The rush of modern life has killed conversation. Johnson's

age had something we have lost—leisure. He spoke of the great scope of Johnson's writings and gave some humorous bits from his conversation. He vividly pictured the attempts of that age to domesticate the external manners of the French salon.

FLORENCE RUSSELL, Secy.

District of Columbia—At the regular monthly meeting of the association, held in the Public library, February 16, there was, instead of the usual formal program, a round-table discussion of recent reference books. Grace E. Babbitt led the discussion on general reference books; G. M. Churchill on reference books in the social sciences; Eunice Oberly on those in agriculture; Prof. A. F. Schmidt, librarian of George Washington university, on language and literature, and Edwin Wiley on American history. A large number of books were discussed or brought to the attention of the members, the new Webster's International dictionary and the loose-leaf encyclopedia receiving especial attention. The informality of the meeting, the lively interest of all those present and their willingness to take an active part in the round-table discussion made the meeting one of the most successful held this season. Eight new members were elected and light refreshments were served after the meeting.

MILTENBERGER N. SMULL, Secy.

Pennsylvania—The third meeting of the season of the Pennsylvania library club was held Monday evening, Feb. 14, 1910, at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia. The club welcomed June Richardson Donnelly, librarian of Drexel institute and director of the Library school, among the new members.

The president, Dr Robinson, introduced the speaker of the evening, William R. Reinick, who gave a very concise and interesting illustrated lecture on "Book-worms," giving an

outline of a theory which he contends will be found to be true, when further researches are made by chemists, biologists and entomologists, and that is, that the insect ravages are in part due to the poisons that are used in the paper making, bindings, etc., and that these poisons are beneficial to insects; also that the eggs of these insects, in a number of cases, were originally in the raw materials used in paper making, and were incorporated in the manufactured product without having been destroyed, and when the proper conditions, such as heat and dampness, occurred, the eggs hatched and the worms proceeded to do the work that nature intended they should; that the holes, as though made by a shot gun, found in calf and sheep bindings, would be found to be done by a species of *Trichina*, which is known to infect the live sheep and cattle, and that poisons were necessary for the small forms of life for food and medicine.

The meeting was followed by a reception. The decorations and refreshments were appropriate in their recognition of St. Valentine. Each guest was presented with a valentine, which caused much merriment.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN, Secy.

Wisconsin—The twelfth annual meeting of the Fox River Valley library association was held in the Elisha D. Smith library, Menasha, Wis., on March 3-4, 1910. There was a large attendance, some 24 libraries being represented and six members of the Wisconsin free library commission being present.

The first session was called to order by Lucy Lee Pleasants, president of the association. An address of welcome from the city was given by Mayor Rimmel, the address in behalf of the library board was given by McCarthy Pleasants, while Frank J. Harwood responded for the association. The afternoon was largely devoted to reviewing the "Relation of the library to the schools." Matthew

S. Dudgeon, secretary of the library commission, gave a practical talk on this subject, followed by Mary A. Smith of Eau Claire, who gave her experience in acquainting pupils of the eighth grade with the use of the library, so that they had a good working knowledge of it before entering the high school. The discussion was led by Jeannette M. Drake of the library commission, and joined in by several of the librarians.

"The ideal library" was presented in a delightful way by Gabriella Ackley of Watertown; the discussion was led by Mary E. Hazeltine, preceptor of the Wisconsin library school. Miss Hazeltine stated that the library was a part of the municipal organization, and must bear comparison with other departments of the city; in short, must be an effective part of the city government. The question box followed, in charge of Mrs Harriet P. Sawyer of the commission. The questions were practical and varied and a lively discussion followed.

The evening meeting opened with an address on "Historic sites" by Hon. P. V. Lawson of Menasha. An interesting description was given of the many historic places in the vicinity and of the early pioneers and their homes.

The principal address of the evening was given by Pres. Samuel Plantz of Lawrence college, Appleton, on "Books, what and how we should read." This was listened to with marked interest and was highly appreciated by all. An informal reception was tendered the members of the association at the close of the program by the Women's clubs of Menasha and the social hour was much enjoyed.

Previous to the morning session a mending demonstration was given by Mrs Sawyer, which was helpful and showed the excellent work which may be done with liquid glue. The morning session opened with a paper

by Ada J. McCarthy of Marinette, on "How European travel interprets library work," which gave many original and pleasing ideas on the subject. Lutie E. Stearns of the commission gave an interesting and entertaining paper on "Some modern tendencies in literature." Miss Stearns told of the vast amount of literature published during the past year and the relative proportion of each class published. Fiction occupied the second place, and was only 10 per cent of the entire output. She explained some of the reasons for the high prices of books and said commercialism in literature is its greatest tendency. Miss Stearns then led a book symposium, consisting of three-minute reviews, given by about a dozen of the librarians and library trustees. This proved to be of great interest, as a wide variety of subjects was touched upon, each one giving a review of some book which had especially appealed to her during the past year.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Frank J. Harwood, Appleton; vice-president, O. A. Ellis, Oconto; secretary, Helen Mathews, De Pere; treasurer, Florence Hays, Ripon.

AGNES LUCY DWIGHT, Secy.

Toronto Library Club

The members of the staff of the Toronto public library have organized a library club with 31 members. The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss the problems that arise in connection with the work of the library.

The finest music in the world is that which streams out to the ear of the spirit in many an exquisite strain from the hanging shelf of books on the opposite wall. Every volume there is an instrument which some melodist of the mind created and set vibrating with music, as a flower shakes out its perfume or a star shakes out its light.—J. L. ALLEN.

News from the Field

East

James M. Dearborn, N. Y. '10, has been engaged as librarian of Boston university.

Frank Ryder, for 27 years in charge of the bookbinding department of the Boston public library, died March 8, age 60 years.

Mary A. Little, connected with library work in Lewiston, Me., since 1872, has resigned her position because of ill health. Miss Little was for many years the chief librarian of the Mechanics' association library, and through her faithfulness and indefatigable efforts the library grew and extended its influence until it contained nearly 15,000 v. and was finally taken over by the city as a public library.

Miss Little felt that the responsibility of the head of a new institution at the time was more than she cared to assume and so she was made assistant librarian. For nearly 40 years she has given faithful, earnest service to the community, and on her retirement the newspapers of Lewiston and the citizens united in recognition of the great service she has rendered.

The Salem athenæum, founded in 1760, the oldest library in Massachusetts, and one of the half dozen oldest in the United States, observed the 150th anniversary of its foundation March 29-31. The history of the library, issued as an anniversary publication, presents some very interesting features of development from the founding of the Social library in 1760, the founding of the Philosophical library in 1782, and the union of the two libraries as the Salem athenæum in 1810.

The record of its collection of books is most interesting, several special accessions being noteworthy. Hawthorne, the novelist, and Bowditch, America's greatest mathemati-

cian, both used this library and the original chargebook shows the bent of their reading.

Central Atlantic

Fanny Hart, N. Y. '08, is engaged in arranging and cataloging a private library in New York city.

Louise G. Hinsdale (Pratt '98) has been engaged as librarian to succeed Miss Rathbone at East Orange.

The Richmond branch of the Philadelphia free library was opened to the public Tuesday evening, March 15.

Jessamine E. Swartwout has been appointed cataloger in the library of the United States Bureau of Education.

Mary E. Speer, connected with the Carnegie library, of Braddock, Pa., for 12 years, has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie library at McKeesport.

Mrs Grace O'Neill Savage, N. Y. 1904-5, for several years cataloger in the United States bureau of education library, has been transferred to the bureau of chemistry.

The exhibits at the Astor library building in New York during March were Indian studies, photographed by Karl Moon, and portraits by Italian painters, photographs from the A. A. Hopkins collection.

The index to volume 14, monthly bulletin of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, has been issued. A helpful feature of the index is the call numbers attached, showing the classification of the material. This will be helpful, too, for even those who may not have the bulletin at hand.

Marilla Waite Freeman, connected with the Louisville library since its organization, has resigned her position as reference librarian to take a similar position in the Public library of Newark, N. J. Miss Freeman has stood in the front rank of progressive librarians in the Middle West for the past 12 years. She was the first librarian of Michigan

City, Ind., later of Davenport, Ia., leaving there to go to Louisville. She has left each position to the great regret of the several communities and with a professional standing that has grown from the first.

A tablet to the memory of the late Alice B. Kroeger, first librarian of Drexel institute, has been placed at the entrance of the library of the institute by the faculty. The tablet is of polished brass, mounted on black Belgian marble, and is suitably inscribed.

Mary O. Nutting died February 13 at Mount Holyoke college, where she was librarian from 1870 to 1901. In recognition of her long and faithful service, the trustees in 1901 gave her the title librarian emeritus, and she continued a part of the active work until 1905. Self-trained, of logical mind, accurate, methodical, her interest and devotion were given in unstinted measure to her library, every book of which she made the acquaintance of when it came. She was the author of *William the Silent* and *Days of Prince Maurice*, history of the Netherlands in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, retold for young people.

Dr J. G. Ames, prominent in library affairs in official library circles in Washington from 1873 to 1908, died in Washington, Feb. 18, 1910, age 75 years. Dr. Ames was connected for many years with the public documents department, and a debt of gratitude is due him by librarians in general, as being the first to render any degree of order in the chaos that still continues in the printing, distribution and arrangement of public documents. The Ames index to public documents was for many years the only tool that gave any insight to the formidable mass of public documents.

Dr Ames was a graduate of Williams college, '56, and was graduated from the Kenyon Theological semi-

nary afterward. For the last few years he has been connected with the Episcopal cathedral in Washington City, being librarian and assistant curate.

The Binghamton public library has begun a course of technical instruction at the Public library. Classes, open to anyone engaged in the trades, will be given free instruction by those who are experts in their work, with the two-fold view of being of assistance to those who are working in a particular line of trade during the day and would like to devote the evening hours to study, and at the same time make the library of practical use to its patrons as well as providing reading matter.

On Monday evenings, architecture, carpentry and mechanical drawing will be given; Tuesday evenings, mechanical engineering; Wednesday evenings, electrical engineering; Thursday evenings, civil engineering; Friday evenings, applied mathematics and astronomy; Saturday evenings, biology, chemistry and physics. There will be no fee of any kind. Books will be furnished by the library.

A course of lessons in cookery will also be given on such subjects as marketing, cooking of vegetables, temperatures and methods used in the cooking of eggs, making of soups and special dishes, and demonstrations showing the cuts of meats and their uses in cookery.

This is the first attempt on the part of the public library to conduct classes with formal instruction.

Central

Blanche L. Hawks, N. Y. 1907-8, has been appointed cataloger in the Superior (Wis.) public library.

Anna G. Hubbard (Pratt '98) has been appointed head of the order department of the Cleveland public library.

Georgia H. Reynolds, who since 1902 has been librarian of the traveling libraries with the Indiana library commission, resigned from her position on

March 1. She has been succeeded by Helen Davis, who comes from the cataloging department of the University of Illinois library.

Caroline Langworthy, Ill. '06, for some time past connected with the commission work in Iowa, has become librarian of the Public library of Ft. Smith, Ark.

The Illinois Wesleyan university at Bloomington, Ill., has received a gift of \$50,000 for a new library building from a friend of the university, who desires at this time to remain unnamed.

A collection of books for the special use of social workers of the city has been placed in a quiet, restful part of the reference room of the St. Louis public library. They are at the disposal of the public, but may not be taken from the room. Such as are wanted for home use will be duplicated in the issue department.

The Chicago public library is rapidly installing deposit stations in commercial and trade centers throughout the city. More than a dozen are now in operation, many of them with a considerable collection of books. The firms supplied agree to furnish a room, an attendant and care for the books which the library furnishes, together with transportation to and from the library.

The new library of the Indiana state normal school is finished and will be dedicated in June. The total cost is nearly \$150,000. The result is said to be the handsomest library building in the state. Five points were aimed at and achieved in this building: Safety, large storage capacity, comfort of readers, convenience of administration and architectural beauty. The library has 47,000 v. on the shelves, and is largely supported by a fee from students.

The removal of the books to the new building occupied a little over two weeks. The books were thoroughly cleaned and loaded into long shallow trays and carried across the street to the stacks in the new building. It was

known just what books would occupy not only each floor of the stack and the special rooms, but also the classes of books that would occupy each range and section. The books were carried directly to their permanent places.

Fire has visited several libraries during the past month. The library building of Hillsdale college, Mich., was totally destroyed by fire, February 25. The library building of the Public library of South Bend was damaged to the amount of \$2000 on February 23. Repairs were made immediately and the library was closed for only a few days.

Nearly 10,000 v. were lost also in a fire in the Public library of Cheboygan, Mich.

The seventh annual report of the Davenport public library shows a net increase of 2945 v., making a total of 28,811. The circulation for 1909 was 158,430; of these 11,660 were German books, 34,555 from the children's room, and 32,117 loaned from grade libraries in public schools. The largest circulation for one day was 1201; average, 525.

The financial statement shows an expenditure of \$12,237.40; books, \$3063.18; binding, \$877.98; periodicals, \$359.57.

The first deposit station was opened in October, in a drug store in the west end of the city. A library attendant is in charge one afternoon and evening each week, and the work is growing.

Bulletin boards in institutions are kept supplied with reading lists, and religious books are announced on the back of one church calendar.

The library now publishes a quarterly bulletin, containing library notes and lists of new books, of which the first number was issued in April, 1909, but weekly lists of books ready for circulation are also announced in the daily papers.

An author catalog of the German collection was made by the Lischer

Printing Company and presented to the library.

The Christmas exhibit of children's books has been made a permanent feature of the children's room, where parents or others may always find a selection of beautiful books for examination.

Some valuable additions were made to the local collection, and the report urges the citizens to aid in saving pamphlets that will increase in value with time.

The report contains fine cuts of the children's room and its frieze, the latter the gift of W. C. Putnam.

The Public library of Evanston, Ill., reports 44,095 v. and a circulation for the year of 119,347, of which 93,064 v. were loaned to adults and 26,283 v. to children; fiction loaned, 69,096 v. The library has 7198 borrowers.

School circulation is being merged into the deposit stations. Three stations were opened, and circulated 1647 v. One deposit station is located at a school, one at a parish house, and one at a church.

Income from taxation was \$11,444.22; from petty cash fund, \$2,706.84, which includes additional gifts to the medical science section, and the Sadie Knowland Coe music collection.

Expended for books, \$1418; for periodicals, \$294; for binding and repairing, \$896; salaries, librarian and staff, \$6105; engineer-janitor service, \$1225.

The department of music grows in favor, the circulation of music scores and pianola rolls increasing.

The use of the pianola-piano seems to prove a successful experiment. The working force consists of librarian, nine assistants and engineer-janitor.

There were seven, public lectures given in the building during the year.

The report of the Newberry library, Chicago, for 1909, gives the following:

Increase by purchase, 11,234 pieces; increase by gift, 1966 pieces; total in the library, 259,342; number of cur-

rent serials, 880; number of readers, 67,969; number of books delivered to readers, 97,491; the use of general reference books and those on open shelves is not recorded statistically. Seventy-three volumes were loaned to other libraries under inter-library loan system.

The character of the accessions to the library is the most interesting feature of the report and the one which has most general interest. The most notable acquisition was the Chinese and Tibetan material gathered in China for the library by Dr Bert-hold Laufer: "The present collection comprises: 1) All Tibetan literature I was able to secure at Darjeeling and in Sitkim, i. e., Tibetan literature printed in Tibet; 2) all Tibetan and Mongol books which have ever been printed at Peking, as far as available at present; 3) a fine and complete copy of the Tibetan Kanjur, the famous collection of religious Buddhist books in Tibetan, in 102 folio volumes, brought from Lhasa to Peking by the Dalai Lama on his recent visit [there]; 4) a choice collection of Japanese illustrated books, of great value to students of Japanese art and culture . . . ; 5) a splendid Chinese library, which is very strong in history, lexicography, philosophy, and encyclopædias, and abounds in magnificent old editions. There are no less than 37 works coming down from the time of the Ming dynasty (1368-1648), the oldest being dated 1415. This material, properly arranged, would show the entire development of East Asiatic printing, book-making, and wood-engraving."

A number of other sets were added, among which was a complete set of the publications of the International Musikgesellschaft, and the collected works of the following musicians: Peter Cornelius, Christoph Gluck, Andrew Gretry, Joseph Lanner, Orlando Lassus, Johann C. Löwe, and Jan Sweelinck.

South

John B. Kaiser, N. Y. '10, has been appointed legislative reference librarian for the Texas State library, and will begin work in August.

The fifteenth annual report of the Public library of Norfolk, Va., places special emphasis on its work as an educational institution. Card holders, 8652; children's registration, 1138; number of volumes in the library, 18,885, exclusive of public documents; circulation for home use, 94,132.

West

The new Public library of Denver, Colo., was formally opened February 15 with appropriate ceremonies. In the afternoon the building was open and the public was shown through by the library staff. The formal ceremonies were held at night, when Governor Thomas made the principal address. Addresses were also made by John A. Burnett and Librarian C. R. Dudley.

The new library building is classed among the finest library buildings in the country. It cost \$425,000, of which sum Andrew Carnegie gave \$200,000. The site cost \$98,000. The building is made of Colorado stone and has capacity for 300,000 v. At present it contains 125,000 v. The building is equipped with the best L. B. furniture throughout and has the latest library improvements in its fittings.

Pacific coast

The Public library of La Jolla, Cal., of which Nina T. Waddell, Armour '97, is librarian, has been made a deposit station of the San Diego public library.

Charles F. Lummis, for the past five years librarian of the Public library of Los Angeles, resigned his position March 4. Mr Lummis gives as his reasons for resigning a desire for more time for his personal work and inclinations. He has much uncompleted writing in progress, and has interests of a public character, such as

preservation of the missions and the upbuilding of the Southwest museum. Mr Lummis has recently presented to the Southwest museum his collection of Indian relics, pottery, paintings, writings, maps, illustrations and drawings, and expects to devote much time to the upbuilding of the institution.

Canada

A plan is under consideration in Montreal to remodel the old church of Notre Dame de Pitie for a public library and museum. The boulevard on which it stands will be widened at that point and the street will pass on each side of the building.

The annual report of the Public library of Windsor records 17,906 books on the shelves and an accession of 1128 for the year. The total circulation for the year was 50,965 v.; fiction, 53 per cent; cards in force, 1614.

A valuable collection of fossils and minerals arranged in cases was presented to the library by J. H. Moran. Several old documents of great historical interest were also presented.

Foreign

G. H. Eliot, librarian of the Public libraries of Belfast, Ireland, has given a course of lectures during the past winter to the casual readers of the library on five avenues of knowledge. The lectures covered history, biography, voyages and travels, open air studies and literature as essays, poetry and novels. The library issued a hand-list of best books on these subjects for distribution at the lectures, naming various branches throughout the city where these books might be obtained.

The city council of Dunedin has taken the initiative in calling a conference of those concerned in the administration of the public libraries of New Zealand, the object being to secure more uniformity of action in the management and to discuss matters that have a distinct bearing on the same. The conference was set

for Easter week and an invitation extended to all those engaged in the management of municipal and other libraries in the province of New Zealand.

The annual report of the Public library of Cardiff records 169,447 v. in the central and branch libraries, and 23,792 v. in the school library; total circulation, 787,962 v., an increase of 22,454 over the previous year. The plan of loaning not more than five books on one ticket for a period of four weeks was tried during August, with complete success.

During the lecture season, 44 lectures were given in the library. There was an average attendance of 146 and a total attendance of 6456. Reading circles met in a number of the branch libraries, and did useful work in promoting systematic reading. Special exhibits have been held with permanent collections of binding and specimens of early printing.

A change of position wanted—A librarian of nearly 30 years' experience, particularly in the organization of libraries and the training of library assistants, would like to take the temporary or permanent charge of some larger library than the one he is now connected with. Address William Alanson Borden, librarian, Young men's institute, New Haven, Conn.

Library Apprentices

Columbia University library (New York) will take five apprentices for the academic year 1910-11. College graduates preferred. For details write Miss H. B. Prescott before June 1.

The Superintendent of documents, Government printing office, Washington, will soon have for sale a select list of references on the cost of living and prices, which is now being prepared by the Library of Congress.

A Few Reasons Why Libraries Purchase Their Books Advantageously From Us

WE have a larger and more complete stock of books of all publishers than any other dealer in the entire country.

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The best aid to medium and small sized libraries in the selection and buying of current books; also of practical assistance in classifying and cataloging the books listed. Issued monthly except in July and August. Fifteen cents for single copies, \$1 a year, \$2.50 a 100 copies.

Press Proofs. Booklist press proofs are convenient and inexpensive for cutting and mounting. May be used as a reserve buying list, order index, reference file, note catalog, pasting entries in books, etc. Printed on one side only. \$1 a year.

Subject Index. A subject index to the Booklist is being prepared to cover the years 1905-1909 (v. 1-6), and will give in alphabetical order the subject headings represented in the books that have been included within these years. Uniform in size with the Booklist. Fifteen cents a copy. Libraries desiring copies should notify the Secretary of the Publishing Board, 1 Washington Street, Chicago.

CARD PUBLICATIONS.

Current Publications. Catalog cards for articles in 250 publications. Subscription (2 cards for each title).

a For complete series, \$2.50 a 100 titles.

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Facsimiles of Early Texts. Cards for photo-facsimiles of early texts in modern languages, indicating the libraries in which copies may be found. Subscription price, \$3 a 100 titles (2 cards for each title).

English History. Catalog cards for books in English history, 1898 to 1903. \$2 per year. Beginning with 1902, American history titles are included

Special Library Bindings for "Everyman's Library"**Important Announcement to Librarians**

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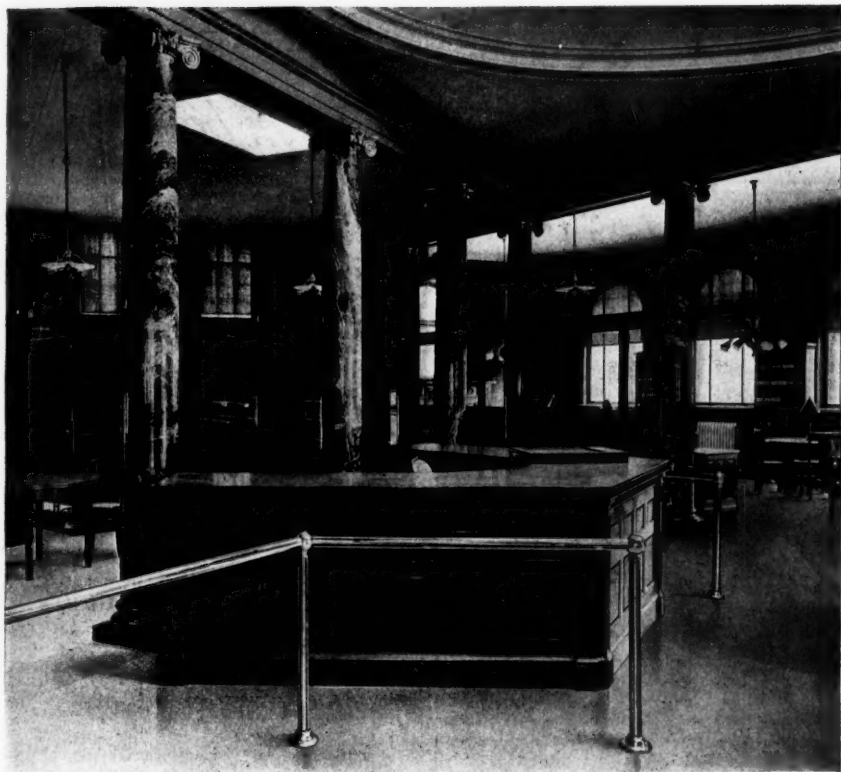
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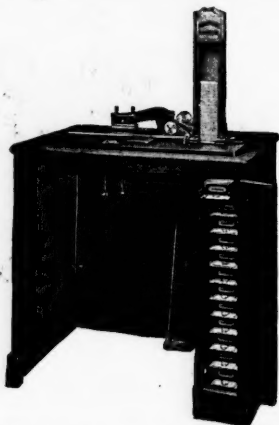
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